



BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 30th Year
Single Copy: \$1.25

Return Address:
Kenneth A. Ebner
822 Wauona Trail
Portage, WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #265
Portage WI 53901

Vol. 29 No. 1 • 345th Consecutive Monthly Issue • Baraboo, Wisconsin • January 1999

Scholarships announced for 1999 - 2000 by Foundation for Amateur Radio

Three Wisconsin clubs among providers

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer sixty-six scholarships for the academic year 1999 - 2000 to assist licensed radio amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio clubs, fully funds ten of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual hamfest. The remaining fifty-six are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed radio amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college, or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2500, with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters,



during training classes, on their nets, and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1999, from: FAR Scholarships, Post Office Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 503(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of

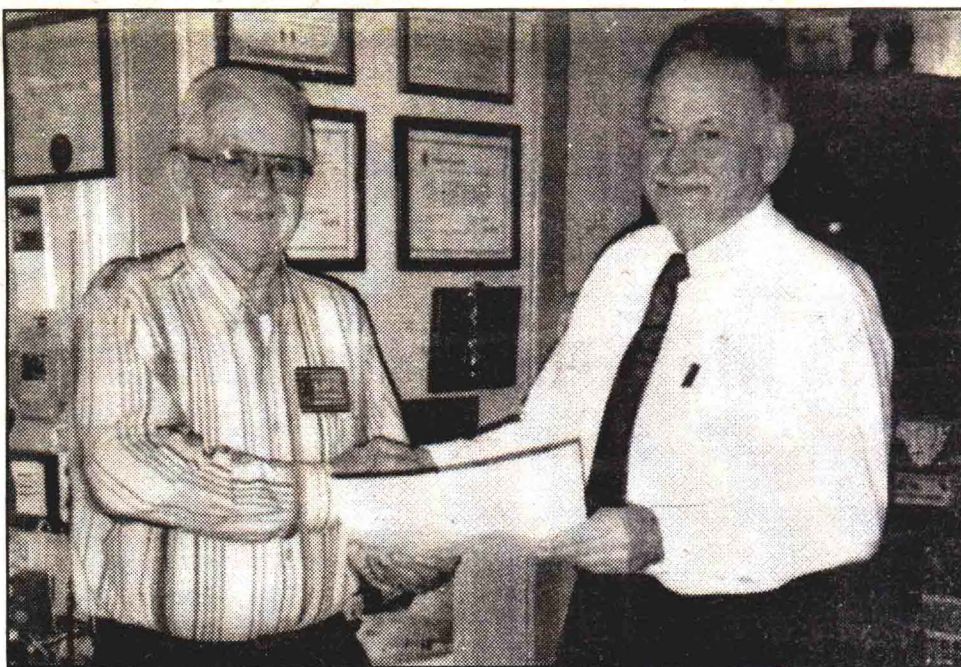
Please turn to page 6

1999 Wisconsin QSO Party

Sunday, March 14, 1999

Full info in next month's issue of
Badger State Smoke Signals

New Section Emergency Coordinator appointed



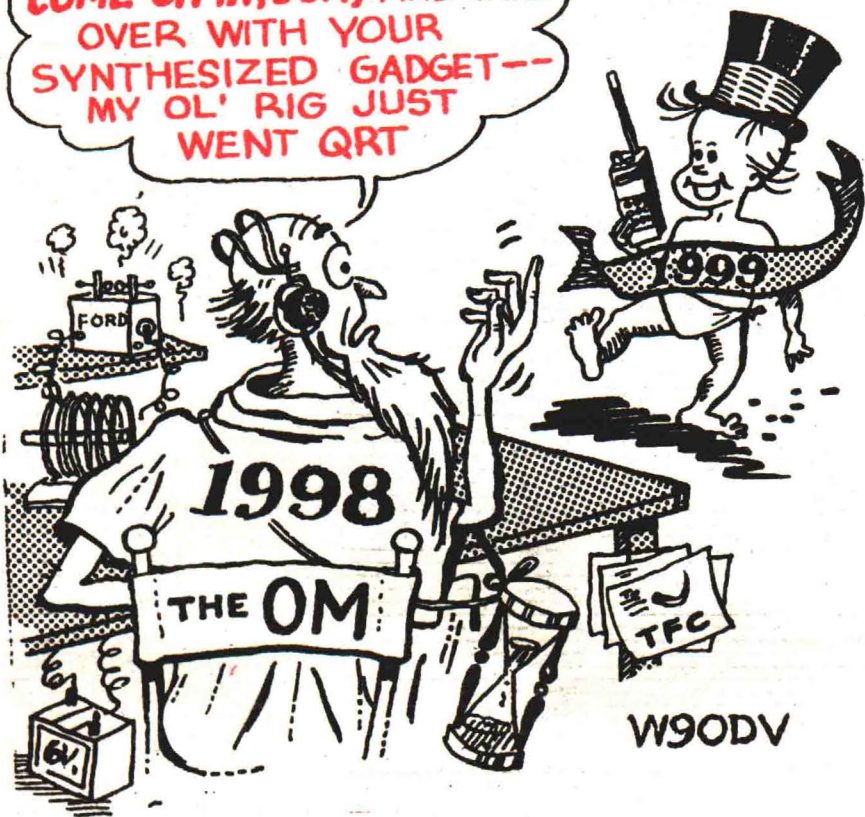
Wisconsin ARRL Section Manager (SM) Roy Pedersen, K9FHI, left, is shown presenting Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, with his certificate of appointment as Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC). Stan takes office January 1, 1999, replacing John Leekley, WB9SMM, who has held that office for many years. Stan plans to begin publishing a newsletter for Emergency Coordinators.

Photo courtesy K9FHI/WB9RQR

FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN	2
Here and There	4, 5
OCWA Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 164 honors member	4
Two-day license course scheduled in Madison	5
Sell, Swap, Buy	5
The Computer Corner: Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR	6
How to take really bad pictures	6
Estate sale list	6
BSSS Quiz answers, winner announced	7
VLF experiment in Holland successful	7
Amateur Radio aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter "Glacier": first part of a series by Sherman Carr, W9NGT	8, 9
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	10
Wisconsin Nets Association	10
Racine Megacycle Club	10
Quarter Century Wireless Association/Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	10
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	11
Washington County Amateur Radio Club	11
ManCoRad Radio Club	11
Watts Snoo (Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs (CWRA) at UW-Stevens Point)	12
Red Cedar Repeater Association	12
Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club	12
Sullivan Skywarn Committee meets: Skip Voros, WD9HAS	13
Wisconsin's next legislative session will bring anti-mobile radio bills	13
The Wisconsin Packeteer	14
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	15

COME ON IN, SON, AND TAKE
OVER WITH YOUR
SYNTHESIZED GADGET--
MY OL' RIG JUST
WENT QRT



W9ODV



WHAT'S HAPPENING

✕ Swapfests and Other Social Events ✕ Club Meetings
✕ Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1999. West Allis Radio Amateur Club, 27th annual Midwinter Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. Contact: WARAC, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1072.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1999. Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction. American Legion Post 53, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Contact: Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1999. SEWFARS Swapfest, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS Inc., PO Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018. (414) 835-7035

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1999. Tri County Hamfest 1999 at Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson WI. Contact TCARC, 711 East St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (920) 563-6502, e-mail tricountyarc@globaldialog.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1999. MARA Swapfest, Madison, WI. Middleton Conference Center. (Same place as last year, but new name.) Contact: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1999. The Ozaukee Radio Club will sponsor its twenty first Annual Cedarburg Swapfest at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Cedarburg, WI. Contact Joe Holly, ORC Swapfest Chairman, 1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024. (414) 377-2137 or Skip Douglas at (414) 284-3271.

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1999. The Lakeshore Hamfest at Manitowoc County Expo, Manitowoc, WI. Contact: Glen, AA9MT (920) 684-7096 or Red, N9GHE (920) 684-9097. ManCoRad Radio Club, PO Box 204,

Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999. The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs, 22nd annual Swapfest and Auction at Junction City, WI. (Stevens Point area.) Contact: John Feltz, W9JN, 973 E. First St., Junction City, WI 54443-9614. (715) 457-2506. e-mail: jfw9jn@tznnet.com

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 1999. Racine, WI. The Racine Megacycle Club, Amateur Radio & Computer Show. Contact: e-mail: w9udu@wi.net voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC web page: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1999. Circus City Swapfest, Baraboo, WI. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDO, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453. e-mail: <http://www.thelorax.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm>

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

Badger State Smoke Signals

*Amateur Radio
Education and Information*

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (808) 742-3580. kebnetter@palacenet.net

EDITOR: Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913. Telephone (808) 356-4031. InterNet e-mail: smokesigs@baraboo.com

TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

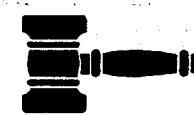
Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer radio amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.



CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the September 1998 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following changes have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
2nd Tuesday - 7:30 PM Eau Claire, Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. Wide area coverage repeater KB9RRA 146.910 Mhz. For more info: Jim Staats KG9MV 715-838-9108 kg9mv@ecol.net

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
"CQ First Tue." - A social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon at the King's Table in King, WI, on Highway QQ just south of highways 10 and 54 on the west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11:00 - 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted.

"CQ Third Fri." A social gathering and Dutch treat dinner, semi-formal, "OM & XYL" at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check Waupaca 147.390 nets at 8:00 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for that month's meeting place.

QCWA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER #55
Contact Erwin Froelich, W9RZW, Treasurer, W3449 Badger Road, Pine River WI 54965. For information about meeting dates or joining QCWA Chapter #55. The Wisconsin Chapter holds Spring and Fall dinner meetings on the first Saturday of June and October.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.) OSHKOSH, WI
R.A.W. is a family oriented club, in which most of it's activities revolve around family doings and outings. Meetings are on the 3rd saturday of each month at various locations. If you are a Ham or are interested in Ham radio, contact Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Jeff Oppermann N9OSB, (920) 233-7961. We are always looking for good people to join us.

The Test Point



*Amateur Radio Examination Locations
and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area*

January 02, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 02, 1999	St. Paul, MN
January 09, 1999	Blaine, MN
January 09, 1999	Friendship, WI
January 09, 1999	Eau Claire, WI
January 09, 1999	Madison, WI
January 09, 1999	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
January 12, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
January 16, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
January 16, 1999	Love's Park, IL
January 16, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
January 16, 1999	Sheboygan, WI
January 18, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
January 23, 1999	Appleton, WI
January 25, 1999	Bloomington, MN
January 30, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 30, 1999	Tomahawk, WI
February 06, 1999	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 06, 1999	Racine, WI
February 06, 1999	St. Paul, MN
February 06, 1999	Onalaska, WI
February 11, 1999	Apple Valley, MN
February 13, 1999	Blaine, MN
February 13, 1999	Madison, WI
February 13, 1999	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
February 16, 1999	Eden Prairie, MN
February 20, 1999	Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
February 20, 1999	Cottage Grove, MN
February 20, 1999	Love's Park, IL
February 20, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 20, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 27, 1999	Bloomington, MN
February 27, 1999	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 27, 1999	Tomahawk, WI

March 06, 1999 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 March 06, 1999 Racine, WI
 March 06, 1999 St. Paul, MN
 March 11, 1999 Apple Valley, MN
 March 13, 1999 Blaine, MN
 March 13, 1999 Madison, WI
 March 13, 1999 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 March 16, 1999 Eden Prairie, MN
 March 16, 1999 Sheboygan, WI
 March 16, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 March 20, 1999 Cottage Grove, MN
 March 20, 1999 Loves Park, IL
 March 20, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 March 27, 1999 Bloomington, MN
 March 27, 1999 Menomonie, WI
 March 27, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 March 27, 1999 Tomahawk, WI
 April 03, 1999 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 April 03, 1999 Racine, WI
 April 03, 1999 St. Paul, MN
 April 10, 1999 Blaine, MN
 April 10, 1999 Eau Claire, WI
 April 10, 1999 Madison, WI
 April 10, 1999 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 April 15, 1999 Apple Valley, MN
 April 15, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 April 17, 1999 Cottage Grove, MN
 April 17, 1999 Loves Park, IL
 April 17, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 April 20, 1999 Eden Prairie, MN
 April 24, 1999 Bloomington, MN
 April 24, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 April 24, 1999 Tomahawk, WI
 May 01, 1999 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 May 01, 1999 Racine, WI
 May 01, 1999 St. Paul, MN
 May 08, 1999 Blaine, MN
 May 08, 1999 Madison, WI
 May 08, 1999 Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 May 08, 1999 Onalaska, WI
 May 13, 1999 Apple Valley, MN
 May 15, 1999 Cottage Grove, MN
 May 15, 1999 Loves Park, IL
 May 15, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 May 15, 1999 Sheboygan, WI
 May 18, 1999 Eden Prairie, MN
 May 22, 1999 Bloomington, MN
 May 22, 1999 Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
 May 29, 1999 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 May 29, 1999 Tomahawk, WI
 July 20, 1999 Sheboygan, WI
 August 21, 1999 Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
 September 11, 1999 Sheboygan, WI
 September 11, 1999 Onalaska, WI
 October 16, 1999 Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
 November 06, 1999 Menomonie, WI
 November 06, 1999 Onalaska, WI
 November 16, 1999 Sheboygan, WI
 December 18, 1999 Oshkosh, WI (R.A.W.)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Racine, WI
 (except January, July & August)
 Monthly, 1st Sat. Oshkosh (Omro), WI
 Monthly, 1st Sat. St. Paul, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Thu. Apple Valley, MN
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Madison, WI
 Monthly, 2nd Sat. Blaine, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Tue. Eden Prairie, MN
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Milwaukee, WI (BE)
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Loves Park, IL
 Monthly, 3rd Sat. Cottage Grove, MN
 Monthly, 4th Sat. Bloomington, MN
 Monthly, Last Sat. Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
 (except December)
 Monthly, Last Sat. Tomahawk, WI
 (January thru October only)
 Quarterly Eau Claire, WI
 (Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)
 plus annual summer hamfest.)

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES

FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:

Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.

Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)

To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.45 payable to "ARRL/VEC".

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing

before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.

Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.shtml>

By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)

SECOND SATURDAY - OAK CREEK, WI
 LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI

SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.

LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).

Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such as a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.35 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE

Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI

VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.

You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.

Mark Jenks, NZ9B

MENOMONIE, WI

VEC Exams of all levels will be held Saturday March 27, at the UW-Stout Communications Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonie, Wisconsin. Walk-ins only. Walk in between 9:00 and 11:00 am. For further information, contact Jim Ley, NX9F. (W) 715-232-1397 or (H) 715-235-3998.

STEVENS POINT, WI

ARRL Exams in Stevens Point, Time: 0930. Place: A107 Science Building, on campus at UWSP (corner of Fourth and Reserve streets) For more information contact Joe Larson, N9JW, at 715- 344-1182 evenings or email to joel8@bigfoot.com.

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC

Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.

Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walkins are permitted.

Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct. Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC

MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)

KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)

Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP,

2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

OSHKOSH, WI (R.A.W.) - (W5YI/VEC)

February 20, 1999, May 22, 1999, August 21, 1999, October 16, 1999, December 18, 1999. Sponsored by Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (R.A.W.) Testing sessions at UW Oshkosh, College of Nursing Building, 845 Algoma Blvd., Room 211, Oshkosh, WI. Park free in lot 29 on side of building or in lot 25 behind the building. Registration start at 9 a.m. \$6.35 per test. Bring 2 forms of id etc. Walkins are welcome. Contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Conner, K9II (920) 231-7093.

EAU CLAIRE, WI

The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For more info: Steve Bluem KA9OMY 715-839-6509

SHEBOYGAN, WI

All sessions will be held in the Red Cross building, 2023 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI, in the SCARC meeting room on the lower level of the building. This area is not readily handicapped accessible. In the event there is a candidate who would be affected by this situation, we will accommodate that person in one of the Red Cross conference rooms on the main level of the building which IS handicapped accessible. Pre-registration is necessary (we don't want get caught sort!) Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, N8209 Willow Road, Plymouth, WI 53073-2929. (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South. registration begins at 9:00 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0723.

MEDFORD, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Taylor County Area AREC. Registration starts 8:30 a.m., testing starts 9:00 a.m. Location: The conference room in the lower level of the Sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Take Ogden St. west off of Hwy. 13 to the courthouse. Park in the lots on the east or south sides of the courthouse or on the street. PLEASE use the entrance on the south side of the courthouse and watch of the signs. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451. (715) 748-4054

PEWAUKEE, WI

The location is a little more handicap accessible, room S110 in the back of the science building by the handicap parking entrance. WCTC is on Hwy JJ off Hwy 16 from the East I-94 and Hwy T from West I-94 just north of GE Medical Systems. Tests start at 9:00 AM and registration ends at 10:00 AM. Contact: Al Johnson, AA7CS

HUDSON, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsor: St. Croix Valley AR Testing Col. Time: Call for time and walk-in info, Contact: Gregory Miller (715)386-9857

Location: St. Croix County Emergency, Government Center by jail, Carmichal Rd. lower level, Hudson, WI 54016. (Information trn ARRL Web site)

FRIENDSHIP, WI (ARRL/VEC)

Sponsor: Adams County ARC. Location: Adams-Columbia electric Cooperative (Community Room), 410 E. Lake St., Friendship, WI 53934. Contact: Karl Simonson, KB9EQI, (608) 565-6533. kb9eqi@iname.com

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST

GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST

HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST

KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST

MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST

OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST

RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST

RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST

ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST

ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI

SMARC HAMFEST

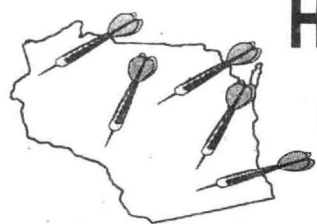
STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST

WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST

DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

(continued on page 15)



HERE and THERE

Ham radio hero honored

Ham hero Lonnie McVaigh, KB9LUN, of Decatur, Illinois, has been honored as the latest recipient of the prestigious Samuel I. Keene Memorial Service Award from the Disaster Preparedness-Emergency Response Association. McVaigh received the award November 19. It carries a \$1000 honorarium.

McVaigh was seriously injured while on storm-spotter duty. "Instead of simply reporting the location and movement of the funnel cloud that threatened Decatur on April 19, 1996, Mr. McVaigh warned people to get off the street and into shelters as the tornado bore down on them," a DERA statement said. As time ran out, McVaigh took refuge with a family in their basement as the twister hit their house. He was seriously injured when the storm toppled the chimney into the basement.

McVaigh's wife, Melissa, KB9MDF, had stayed in contact with him via Amateur Radio as the storm hit. As a result, she was able to alert the rescue squad, which promptly located McVaigh and got him to the hospital.

McVaigh suffered a broken pelvis and nerve damage in his legs. He has had to endure several operations and a lengthy and difficult rehabilitation program. Because of his injuries, McVaigh can no longer work at his job and has had to rely on public assistance, Social Security, and help from friends and his church. The McVaighs have three children of their own plus five foster children. His slow recovery continues.

DERA Executive Director Bascombe "Jay" Wilson, W0AIR, said the organization picked McVaigh from among candidates representing every continent. "The heroism and continued courage of Lonnie McVaigh serve as an inspiration for us all," Wilson said.

The ARRL Letter

Nominations open for Maxim Memorial Award

Nominations are open for the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. The award goes each year to a radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- Participation or leadership in organizational affairs

QCWA Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162 presents award

Ken Knoff, N9NBC (left) receives the third annual Olie Fox, K9AKG, Recognition of Excellence Award from Chapter 162's president, Spencer Clope, W9LDH.

Photo courtesy Larry McCalvy,
WA9JMO



at the local or national level.

- Technical achievement.
- Operating record.
- Recruitment and training of new amateurs.
- Public relations activities.

In keeping with the tradition of the award when it was first established in 1936, formal nominations are made by Section Managers. Supporting information, including the endorsement of ARRL-affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League Leadership officials, should be submitted with the nomination. An award panel will review the nominations received and select the winner. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1000, a suitably engraved plaque, and travel and accommodation expenses to enable the winner to attend an ARRL convention for a formal presentation.

Nominations should document as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. Additional information concerning the character of the nominee should be as complete as possible.

The award is intended to provide a tangible reward to those deserving young amateurs who contribute their time, skills and energies daily through their commitment to Amateur Radio. As models for their peers, and inspirations to us all, these fine young people are highly visible boosters of Amateur Radio awareness. We must continue to recognize and encourage their hard work and contributions at every opportunity.

Nominations must be sent to the Section Manager. Nominations must be received at Headquarters from

Section Managers by March 31, 1999. There is no limit to the number of nominations one may make.

Sixteen-year-old Antone "Tony" Duarte, N1XRS, of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, was the 1997 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award winner.

For more information and an application form, contact ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, e-mail rpalm@arrl.org or write him at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

The ARRL Letter

League files "restructuring" comments with FCC

The ARRL has filed formal comments in response to the FCC's proposed streamlining of the Amateur Radio rules. The League delivered its comments to the FCC December 1, the final day for comments in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in WT Docket 98-143.

The League's filing promotes the ARRL Board of Directors' restructuring positions, adopted last July and fine-tuned at a special meeting in October. It also takes the FCC to task on a few points. The ARRL said the FCC's NPRM failed to contain "a comprehensive license restructuring proposal or even an overall review of license restructuring" and generally "missed the mark."

The League called on the FCC to adopt the ARRL Board's restructuring plans as the centerpiece of its streamlining efforts. Among other things, the League plan calls for eliminating the Novice and Tech Plus licenses to reduce the number of license classes from six to four. The ARRL plan automatically upgrades current Novice and Tech Plus licensees to General. The General license would become the entry-level ticket to HF. Existing Novice and Tech Plus HF CW bands would be "refarmed" to provide additional phone spectrum for General, Advanced, and Extra class licensees.

The FCC also proposed a four-tier license structure, eliminating the Novice ticket and melding existing Technician and Tech Plus licensees into a common database while allowing current Novices and Tech Pluses to retain their current operating privileges. The ARRL said the FCC was on "the right track" in proposing to eliminate the Novice ticket. But the League said its "instant upgrade" plan for Novice and Tech Plus operators is a better approach because it permits "refarming" the underutilized Novice HF subbands. The League called refarming "critical to any comprehensive license restructuring proposal."

The FCC's NPRM sought comments on the issue of Morse code testing and requirements but offered no specific proposals. The ARRL called for a reduction in the number of Morse code examination tiers from three to two -- 5 and 12 WPM -- and changes in the written examinations to make them more relevant and with greater emphasis on current operating practices and newer digital technologies. The League also recommended that the number of written exam questions "increase incrementally" for all license classes above Technician.

The League said that Morse code should not be overemphasized in the licensing process, but should be continued as a licensing requirement above the entry level. It has proposed that General class applicants pass a 5 WPM code test, while Advanced and Extra applicants pass the 12 WPM code test. Subsequent to release of its original restructuring plan, the ARRL Board also decided to ask the FCC to permit Technician operators to use Morse code on the General class HF CW segments without passing a specific code examination.

The ARRL said acknowledged abuses of the CW disability exemption process were an enforcement, not a testing, issue. For those claiming a disability waiver for

SEWFARS SWAPFEST

HAMRADIOS COMPUTERS ELECTRONICS

**SUNDAY
March 7, 1999
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**SET-UP STARTS AT 6:00 AM
WAUKESHA COUNTY EXPO CENTER
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**

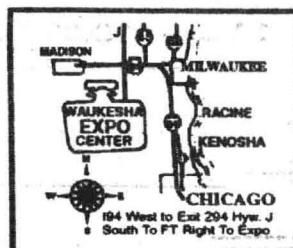
**ADMISSION \$4.00 ADVANCE - \$5.00 AT DOOR
RESERVED TABLES PER 4 ft. \$5.00 - \$7.00 AT DOOR
ELECTRICAL OUTLET \$5.00
AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS**

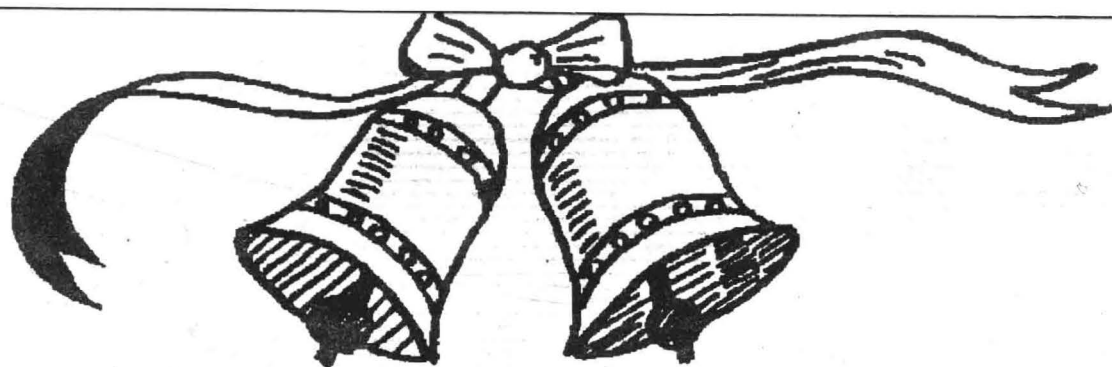
RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FEB. 15, 1999 order early!

**Mail with S.A.S.E. - Make Check Payable to SEWFARS Inc. Mail to P.O. Box 102 Delafield, WI 53018
For more information Phone (414) 835-7035**



TALK IN 146.820 - PL 127.3





Good luck and DX to the new operator

Joe Ash, W9ODV

accommodations as a preferable alternative. The League also urged an end to multiple-choice CW exams and rules specifying that a passing grade for a Morse examination be either 70 percent correct answers to 10 fill-in questions or one minute out of five of solid copy.

The League also praised the "new dawn" in amateur enforcement undertaken within the Compliance and Information Bureau by Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. The ARRL suggested that it would be "reasonable to withhold any further [rulemaking] action on amateur enforcement" for now and let the CIB continue its work.

The ARRL's comments stressed the value of increasing participation in the hobby and making it available to more people. "By increased participation, Amateur Radio can provide even more service to the United States than it does currently, with a simpler licensing structure," the League asserted.

A complete copy of the ARRL's comments in WT Docket 98-143 is available on ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring/> (see "ARRL's Comments to the FCC on WT Docket 98-143"). Reply comments on the FCC's rulemaking proposals are due January 15, 1999. The FCC is not expected to take action on restructuring at least until sometime next spring.

The ARRL Letter

Live SSTV transmitted from Mir



For the first time, live SSTV images have been transmitted from the Russian Mir space station. SSTV equipment was transported to the spacecraft earlier this fall and put on the air December 11. Several amateurs reported copying the images from space on 2 meters, but plans call for the SSTV transmissions to move to a 70-cm frequency that's coordinated for that purpose.

The SSTV system was turned off for several passes after December 14, and the Mir packet system was back on 145.985 MHz, but as of December 16, R0MIR was transmitting SSTV on some passes and packet on others. Meanwhile, APRS developer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, had announced a four-day APRS school experiment via Mir through December 18.

Maxim Memorial Station W1AW copied R0MIR's SSTV pictures December 14 and 16 on 145.985 MHz. "We were able to see one of the solar panels and part of what appeared to be the lower outline of the spacecraft," said W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. He added that Mir's signal was "pretty strong, a good 58 or 59 for most of the pass." Before the SSTV transmission commenced, the station sent "R0MIR" in CW.

Neither of the cosmonauts aboard Mir during the current tour of duty is a licensed amateur. The SSTV equipment aboard the spacecraft was supplied to the Russians by Miles Mann, WF1F. He says the system operates in automatic mode and can display a new image every two minutes.

Mann coordinated a 70-cm frequency, 437.975 MHz, for the SSTV project with AMSAT Frequency Coordinator Graham Ratcliff, VK5AGR. The 2-meter 145.985 MHz frequency has been coordinated for FM voice and packet use, however. While the SSTV system is operating, the Mir packet system and the SAFEX repeater are off the air. Mann said December 16 that he's seeking to keep the SSTV system operating on 2 meters for a while

longer, but added that it would likely go to 70 cm on or before January 1.

A former Mir International Amateur Radio Experiment (MIREX) vice president, Mann formed his own Manned Amateur Radio Experiment -- North American division (MAREX-NA) organization after a public falling out with MIREX President and Mir packet sysop Dave Larsen, N6CO. Larsen, the official Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) liaison with the Russian space program, was among those complaining about the appearance of SSTV on Mir's 2-meter downlink frequency.

For details on how to receive SSTV using your PC, see <http://www.ultranet.com/~sstv>.

The ARRL Letter

SSTV image courtesy W8ZCF, Cincinnati, OH

FCC acts in alleged exam, license fraud cases

The FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau has acted in several Amateur Radio cases it inherited from the days when it shared enforcement duties with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. In all of the cases, the FCC said it appeared that individuals attempted to obtain an Amateur Radio license or upgrade by fraud or misrepresentation.

On December 14, the FCC downgraded two amateur licensees and canceled the ticket of a third in Michigan. Busted from Advanced to Tech Plus were Lawrence A. Repp Jr., N8HFN, of Gaylord, and Alan E. Quirie, KA8ZRR, of Royal Oak. The FCC pulled the Tech Plus ticket of Steven A. Penn, formerly KC8HUM, of Southfield. The FCC had not updated its database as of December 15.

The Commission said the three filed amateur applications claiming to have taken Amateur Radio examinations at Oak Park June 3, 1997, at an ARRL VEC session. The FCC says its evidence shows that the three did not sit for the exams and that their names "were added and signatures forged, sometime after the tests were administered, by one of the four examiners." That examiner -- the father of one of the exam candidates involved -- is said to have forwarded the session package on behalf of the VE team to the ARRL VEC for FCC filing.

"Three of the examiners knew nothing of the scheme," the FCC said. The other three VEs brought the situation to the attention of the ARRL VEC and the FCC after learning that names had been added to the list and that their names had been forged on the ARRL VEC Administering VEs Record. The FCC said it would act in the case of the fourth examiner by month's end. The Commission also is looking into possible enforcement action against another ham whose name was added to the list after the test session but whose application was not

Two-day license class scheduled in Madison

A two-day "crash course" leading to the no-code Technician or Novice class licenses will be held in Madison on January 16, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and January 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Following close of classes, an examination session will be held, including a code test. If you intend to take an exam, be sure you bring two forms of identification.

We will take a lunch break (Dutch treat), plus other breaks, each day. There is an Arby's next door to the U.W. Space Place (1605 South Park Street). Required text is the ARRL publication *Now You're Talking*, 3rd edition, and \$6.45 is required for the exam. Checks or money orders for the exam(s) should be made payable to ARRL/VEC. Prospective students should contact Don Michalski, W9IXG, via email, dem@sal.wisc.edu or phone, (608) 274-3253 (h), 263-4685 (w).

The session is getting a bit of a late start, so those interested should sign up now and get the book. We will provide books or the student can get them from AES or other suppliers. (Radio Shack may have a few left). The teachers will provide a syllabus indicating what the student is expected to study. There is just too much material to cover in one weekend, so home study is a must. The syllabus will indicate what will be taught during the course. The syllabus will advise the student what to learn on their own and what will be taught in class during the weekend.

Several instructors will be available, each teaching sections of the course.

Don Michalski, W9IXG

actually submitted to the FCC.

The FCC also dismissed two amateur applications in Puerto Rico after the applicants failed to answer questions put to them by the Commission. In the case of Jose R. Velez-Rivera, of Rio Pedras, an FCC official said it appears that an imposter tried to change another amateur's call sign, address, and date of birth to his own to get a license without taking an exam. In the second case, the FCC dismissed the renewal and General class upgrade application of Hector A. Santiago, WP4DCB, of Camuy. An FCC official said it appears Santiago tried to renew as a General when he only had a Novice ticket.

Velez-Rivera and Santiago were notified by the FCC October 23. The FCC updated its database this month to reflect the dismissals.

The ARRL Letter

THE BARGAIN MODE

SSB

SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: 14 inch color monitor. Panasonic TV camera. Call (715) 283-4373.

There is no charge for publication of non-commercial ads in Sell, Swap, Buy. Ads may be sent to K9EN or K9ZZ. Send them to Ken Ebner, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 (kebner@palacenet.net) or Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo WI 53913 (smokesigs@baraboo.com). No ads will be accepted by telephone.

BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

Subscription Form Regular Individual Subscription Rates

1 Year: \$13.95 • 2 Years: \$25.95 (save \$1.95) • 3 Years: \$37.95 (save \$3.90)

PLEASE PRINT!

Name: _____ Call Sign (if any): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Send this form, with your check or money order, to Ken Ebner, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.

Please do NOT send cash!

JANUARY 1999

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(414) 284-9346
WB9RQR @ N9PBY.EN63BI.WI.USA.NA
SKAPLAN @ MCW.EDU



If time is included, it must follow the same intuitive sequence of larger to smaller. So, 3:05 p.m. would be written:

15:05 or 15:05:23 if 23 seconds are to be added.

Packet radio users will probably recognize that some TNCs have used this format for years. For example, to reset your KPC-3 TNC to the date and time shown above, one types at the prompt:

DAYTIME 19990112150523

It is a big string of numbers, to be sure, but it is really easy to conceptualize and execute. Just remember: larger to smaller, years are four digits, all other elements are two digits.

Once we pass the year 2000, it will be particularly important that all of us use this standard. As pointed out by Ian Galpin (G1SMD) in the August 1997 issue of *QST* (p. 69), we will soon be faced with highly ambiguous dates such as 05/07/02, which currently means 5 July 2002 in England, May 7, 2002 in the US and 2005 July 2 in Japan! On the other hand, perhaps 1902 or 1905 was the writer's intention, instead of 2002 or 2005. We've just got to get with the standard to avoid ambiguity.

So, how should you start? DOS users, get out your manual and study COUNTRY.SYS, then install it in your CONFIG.SYS file with the proper code page selection. Windows 3.1 users go to your international date/time settings in the Control Panel to make the needed changes. Windows 95 users open the Regional Settings in the Control Panel, and click the Date tab. Then, for the Short Date Style type in yyyy-mm-dd, and for the Long Date Style type in: yyyy MMMM dd. Click the Apply button and you are done. Start using the new format in formal letters and other documents, but also begin using it when writing dates by hand. It will pay off. Everyone will know exactly what you mean by 1999-01-12 or 1999 January 12.

Again, Happy New Year, and Happy Computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, 101 E. Clay Street, Saukville, Wisconsin 53080-1903 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor). □

No. 62: Dates Can Drive You Nuts (and I'm not talking about food!)

Happy New Year! What does 1/12/99 mean? To most people in the US it means the 12th of January. However, to most Europeans, it means the 1st of December. What does it mean when you receive a QSL card from France with 1/12/99 on it? From Germany? From Iceland? From Japan?

At the very least, the answer is ambiguous! Perhaps the writer of the card is converting to our US system as a courtesy. Might you convert to the European system when sending a QSL card to England? Confusion, confusion!

But it need not be confusing anymore, provided that we all adhere to an international standard set over 25 years ago. Indeed, at least part of the Y2K (Year 2000) computer problem exists because of our failure to embrace this standard in the USA.

The international standard is ISO 8601, which is accepted in many countries in the world. Simply, you record dates in full format, in the following order:

YEAR-MONTH-DAY or YYYY-MM-DD

In other words, you record the year using all four digits, and use leading zeroes for the month and day from 00 to 09. Use a hyphen in between numerical elements. Thus, our 12 January 1999 example above would be written:

1999-01-12

Foundation for Amateur Radio Scholarships announced

Continued from front page

1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

The Wisconsin clubs offering scholarships are:

**West Allis Radio Amateur Club, Inc.,
Milwaukee**

The two WARAC Memorial Scholarships, which pay \$1000 each, are open to applicants who hold an Amateur Radio license, are residents of the state of Wisconsin, and who plan to attend a school in Wisconsin, pursuing at least an Associate degree. Those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible.

South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

SMARC offers four scholarships, which pay \$500 each. Applicants must hold an Amateur Radio license and intend to seek an Associate or baccalaureate degree from a college or university in the U.S. Preference will be given to applicants studying Electrical Engineering or related technology. They may reside in Wisconsin, Illinois, or Indiana, with preference given to Wisconsin residents.

Ozaukee Amateur Radio Club

This scholarship pays \$1000. It is available to Wisconsin residents holding any class of Amateur Radio license and pursuing at least a bachelor's degree in any course of study.

Although some of the other 56 awards available are limited in some way, many are open to all radio amateurs. You are encouraged to ask for more information from FAR.

Foundation for Amateur Radio

HOW TO GUARANTEE ROTTEN PICTURES

A SHORT-FORM GUIDE TO TAKING THE WORST-LOOKING AND LEAST-INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

Over the years, many (but not enough) photos have been submitted for publication in these hallowed pages. Some have been good, some moderately so, and some very ungood.

Here is a guide to help you take the worst pictures. It is filled with guaranteed ways to turn what might have been good, interesting pictures into junk. I know. Trust me. Been there, done that.

- Outdoors: Be sure your subjects are in the brightest sunlight you can find. This guarantees hard photos - very high contrast, lots of deep shadows and plenty of squinty eyes. Works every time. Never think of getting in the shade somewhere where the light is softer and diffused. That would make the people look good and they wouldn't squint.

- Indoors: Be absolutely sure you disregard the background - what may be behind your subjects. That nearly always creates bright spots in the photo that helps distract from your subjects and often causes photos to be underexposed by automatic flashes.

- When you are taking pictures of a few people standing up, remember that they are vertical. Therefore, always shoot those photos horizontally. That way, your subjects will get lost in a maze of distracting objects and you have a great chance to show them only from the armpits up.

- If you should accidentally remember to take closeups as closeups, be sure you are close enough with point-and-shoot cameras to get the subjects out of focus.

- If taking photos of an event, be sure the picture(s) do not tell a story of any kind. Example: On Field Day, take a picture of a camper with no one near it. That tells a real story: "Hi there, I am a camper truck."

- If you use a digital camera, be sure it is a cheap one with only moderate resolution. Then, take the photo(s) in low-res mode so lots of squares show as part of the picture. That will give it an "arty" look.

- If you go somewhere (Field Day, swapfest, etc.), take only one photo of each subject. That will assure you of having at least several shots of people with eyes

closed, odd facial expressions, displaying tongues coated with food at club dinners, and the like. Never do it the way news photographers do it: Take at least four shots of each scene. And, even if the photo has time value, always wait to use up that last frame of film, even if it takes another six months. Why? Mustn't be wasteful!

- If you take photos at operating events like Field Day, be sure you get right behind the operator. Readers always like to see backs of heads. Never move to the side and try to get the operator(s) and the gear in the frame, and, even worse, actually doing something instead of grinning at your camera.

- When you look at photos in newspapers or see a movie, never look at how the photography is done. It might give you ideas about lighting and composition done the right way. It could also help you learn the basics of taking photos of people doing things.

- Finally, keep in mind that any and all of the above are guaranteed to assure non-publication by *any* newspaper or magazine. They're the keys to being able to brag about being an unpublished photographer. □

Have you considered becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner?



If you are 18 or older, and are presently a General, Advanced, or Extra class licensee, the ARRL/VEC would be glad to hear from you. Feel free to contact the ARRL/VEC at (800) 927-7583 and request our Prospective VE Packet. Very 73 to all my friends in Wisconsin!

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ/1 • ARRL/VEC Manager

FOR SALE Estate of Silent Key W9QHI, Ray Bohnert

SX25 Hallicrafters rcvr/speaker	\$175
S53A Hallicrafters rcvr	\$75
Midland 2M xcvr w/manual	\$100
Cube magnetic speakers (2)	\$10 each
Headphones	\$15
Courier 40 channel CB	\$15
Midland 76-585 40 channel CB w/manual	\$15
Straight key w/base	\$25
Code practice oscillator	\$5
Rotary antenna switch	\$25
Home brew power supply	\$5

All items in excellent condition. Call or write Betty Bohnert, 519 E. South St., Medford, WI 54451. Phone 715-748-2844. □

Antenna Service Plus

Serving all of Southern Wisconsin!

New and used

(608)938-4999 Office

Systems available!

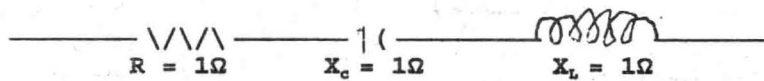
(608)325-3842 Fax

Experienced & Insured

For professional Service and Installs of CATV, Satellite, TV, VHF/UHF, Telephone, Home Theater, Amateur and Business 2 Way Systems

And the winner is..

Here are the answers to the BSSS Quiz, which was printed in our December, 1998 issue:

- 1. Where is the world's the largest Amateur Radio dealer?
Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Amateur Electronic Supply).
- 2. How many bits are there in a normal-size byte?
Eight.
- 3. Who sponsors the Wisconsin QSO Party?
The West Allis Radio Amateur Club.
- 4. In the following circuit, what is the impedance at resonance?

There are three parts shown in the diagram, a resistor, a capacitor, and an inductor. The capacitor, inductor, and resistor are in series. At resonance, capacitive reactance and inductive reactance are equal but opposite. Since this is a series-tuned circuit, the reactances cancel each other, basically leaving only the resistor in the circuit. Thus, the correct answer is 1 ohm. (This assumes the "ideal" situation; an inductor that has no resistance in the wire it is made of.)
- 5. What does the term "TNC" mean?
Terminal Node Controller.
- 6. Who was the first human being to operate Amateur Radio in space (name and call)?
U.S. Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL.
- 7. What states make up the Central Division of the American Radio Relay League?
Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.
- 8. Which layer of the ionosphere produces usually short-term but very good propagation over greater than usual distances on the 6 meter band?
The "E" layer.
- 9. What is the purpose of a duplexer?
A duplexer permits the use of a single antenna to receive and transmit at the same time, as in a repeater.

OZARES helps in search for missing fishing boat

(Port Washington, WI, Dec. 15) - Ozaukee County Emergency Management organized a search today, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, for any remains of the missing fishing boat "Linda E" that might have washed up on the shores of Lake Michigan in the county.

Approximately two-thirds of the 14 miles of shoreline south of Port Washington were scoured for any clues that might point to the fate of the missing vessel (there are 24 miles of Lake Michigan coastline in the county). Most search personnel were members of OZARES (the county's Amateur Radio Emergency Service organization), with additional help from the county Water Safety Patrol, Great Lakes Search and Rescue - K9 and Cedarburg Emergency Government. Pairs of searchers walked the shoreline, communicating via Amateur Radio with a mobile station positioned on the top of the nearby high bluff. The mobile station then relayed reports to Emergency Management's communications hub in the Justice Center.

GPS units were carried by each walking pair, allowing exact pinpointing of the few items found (the items later turned out to be unrelated to the missing craft). The GPS units also permitted accurate mapping of the areas covered by the pairs, as well as their locations along the way during safety status checks.

Each ham carried their hand-held Amateur Radio, spare batteries, snacks and drinking water, and each pair had binoculars for inspection of near-shore waters. The walking searchers provided a visual scanning of the area that could not be done by any other means, including air or boat observations.

Milwaukee's Channel 12 TV covered the search and aired a short story on it.

The search was scheduled to resume on Saturday, December 19, to inspect those areas not covered earlier.

Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR
Ozaukee County EC

- 10. What is the primary purpose of a repeater?
A repeater's primary function is to extend the coverage (range) of low power stations such as portables and mobile stations. Fixed station users are encouraged, if distance permits, to use simplex.
- The winner is Don Backys, K9UQN, of Hoffman Estates, Illinois. Congrats to Don, who will receive a \$25.00 MFI gift certificate, \$15.00 in cash, and a great NASA photo.
- The next quiz will be published in the March, 1999 issue of BSSS. Even we don't know what the prizes will be, but they will be worth taking time to respond. One of the reasons for the quiz series is to educate, thus the questions about electronic theory and radio wave propagation in this one. If you had to research a bit, great! It's good for you.
- The entry rules will change a little for the next quiz to permit answers by email. □

Dutch VLF experiment flies

A serious VLF effort by several Dutch radio amateurs to work as many other VLF stations as possible had been scheduled for November 14. The experiment was to use a kite-borne 900-foot antenna, but that day produced no wind. However, the following Saturday did provide enough wind to loft the wire to about 80 degrees, nearly vertical.

The day was cold (-6 degrees C), and it was windy enough to give several static discharge shocks to the kite/antenna crew. Wind, dry air, and 900 feet of wire will do that; the discharges were about 2cm in length.

The transmitter power was 150 watts. Calculations by the Dutch operators said that EIRP was in the range of ten to fifteen watts. Here are the stations worked by PA2NJJN:

- 09.05 UTC G3KEV 579 our rpt 599
 - 09.35 UTC G3YXM 579 599
 - 09.50 UTC PA0SE 599 599
 - 10.19 UTC G4GVC 589 599
 - 10.38 UTC ON6ND 579 599
 - 11.45 UTC ON6UX 599 599
- In addition, reception reports were received by email and other means. Stations and the approximate path lengths reporting reception of the 136 kHz signal were:

09.31 UTC F6ACU JN38fc RST 59903
09.30 UTC DJ2LF JN59NO 559 DIST 527 km
09.57 UTC DL9EM JN57AQ 579 680
11.46 UTC SM6LKM JO67MR 599 623
11.57 UTC GW4VEQ IO73 529
11.58 UTC GM4CXM IO75TW 529 758
12.00 UTC DL4FAC JN48SW 519
12.15 UTC DL1IAQ JN49HN 429 452
12.29 UTC IK5ZPV JN53KX 529 (1095 !!!!!)
12.38 UTC G3GRO IO91VC 599 531

The operation was from Usquert.

Greetings and thanks to all from the 136 kHz crew: Wim, PE1PFR Jaap, PA3GUC, and Nico, PA2NJJN. The kite crew was Jeroen and Richard, who both have just received their licenses.

If you heard the station, please QSL via Nico J. Nienhuis, PA2NJJN, Mensingeweersterweg 7, NL-9967-PA Eenrum, The Netherlands.

As most readers know, the ARRL has requested some space in the VLF spectrum. FCC has yet to act on that request.

AMERITRON True Legal Limit™ Tuner

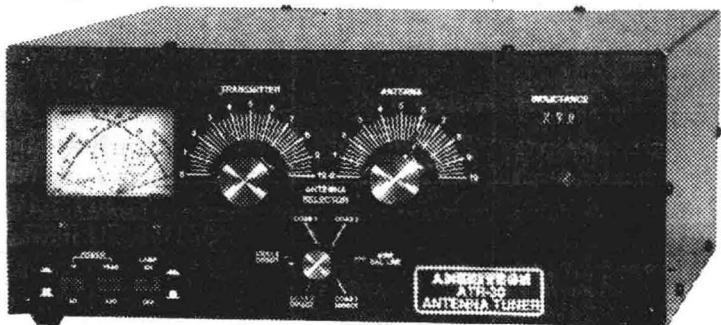
Easily handles 1500 Watts continuous carrier even on 160 Meters... High-current edge-wound silver plated Roller Inductor... Two 500 pf high capacitance tuning capacitors with 6:1 vernier reduction drives... 3 core choke balun... Six position antenna switch... True peak reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter...

Call your dealer for your best price!

AMERITRON ATR-30

\$599
Suggested Retail

- Handles 1500 Watts carrier
- Super High Current edge-wound silver plated Roller Inductor
- 500 pf tuning capacitors with 6:1 vernier reduction drives
- 3 core choke balun
- 6 position antenna switch
- True peak reading meter



AMERITRON's ATR-30 True Legal Limit™ roller inductor antenna tuner is ham radio's toughest! It'll handle 1500 Watts continuous carrier output on all modes and all HF bands into most antennas -- even on 160 Meters where most antenna tuners fail.

It's perfect for Ameritron's most powerful amplifiers where the ATR-30 just loads.

All band coverage lets you operate 1.8-30 MHz including all MARS and WARC bands.

Super High Current Roller Inductor
You'll see Ameritron's new super high current air core roller inductor. It's edge wound from a thick solid copper strip and silver plated. This produces a large surface area and a massive conductor. It can carry huge circulating RF currents and withstand

tremendous heat that'll melt or burn ordinary roller inductors.

A gear driven turns counter and crank knob gives you precise inductance control.

Two 500 pf Tuning Capacitors
Two 500 pf -- the highest of any antenna tuner -- variable transmitting capacitors give you no-arc wide range impedance matching for true high power performance.

6:1 vernier reduction drives makes capacitor tuning smooth and easy.

Super Balun, 6 position Antenna Switch
Super heavy duty three core choke balun lets you match virtually any balanced feed-line antenna without core saturation.

A 6 position antenna switch lets you select your desired operating antenna.

Read true Peak Power
Ameritron's active electronic true peak reading meter accurately reads forward and reflected power and SWR simultaneously on a lighted Cross-Needle meter.

Roomy Cabinet maintains High-Q
Roomy extra-strong .080 inch thick aluminum cabinet gives highest efficiency and lowest loss. 13 1/2"Wx5 1/2"Hx17 1/2"D inches.

AMERITRON ATR-15 Antenna Tuner
ATR-15, \$399. Handles 1500 Watts RF output. Slightly less on 160 Meters. Bandswitched T-Network, peak reading SWR/Wattmeter, covers 1.8-30 MHz, 6 pos. antenna switch, balun. 13 1/2" W x 5 1/2" x 13 1/4" in. Perfect for AL-80B/AL572.

Ameritron has the best selection of TrueLegalLimit™ HF Amplifiers

AMERITRON's legal limit amplifiers use Peter Dahl super heavy duty Hypersil power transformer capable of 2500 Watts!

Ameritron's most powerful Amp
with Eimac® 8877 ceramic tube

Ameritron's toughest Amp
with Eimac® 3CX1200A7 tube

Ameritron's classic Amp
with 2 graphite plate Amperex® 3-500ZG tubes

AL-1500
Suggested Retail **\$2795**
TrueLegalLimit™
Get ham radio's toughest tube with AL-1500. The Eimac® 8877 ceramic tube. It's so powerful that 65 Watts drive gives you the full output power -- and it's just loading because the power supply is capable of 2500 Watts PEP. All HF bands, all modes. 77 pounds, 18 1/2"Dx17Wx10H in.

AL-1200
Suggested Retail **\$2295**
TrueLegalLimit™
Get ham radio's toughest tube with AL-1200. The Eimac® 3CX1200A7 has a 50 Watt control grid dissipation and the lowest history of field replacement of any modern transmitting tube that we use. 90 Watts in gives you full power out. All HF bands, all modes. 76 pounds, 18 1/2"Dx17Wx10H in.

AL-82
Suggested Retail **\$2295**
TrueLegalLimit™
Most linears using 3-500s can't give you 1500 Watts because their lightweight power supplies can't use these tubes to their full potential. AL-82 is ham radio's only super 3-500 amp! 100 Watts in gives you full power out. All HF bands, all modes. Hefty 76 pounds, 18 1/2"Dx17Wx10H inches.

1.5 plus kW SSB HF Amp
with 2 Eimac® 3CX800A7 tubes

NearLegalLimit™ Amp
with four Svetlana® 572B tubes

1 kW Desktop HF Amp
with Amperex® 3-500ZG tube

AL-800H, \$2295 suggested retail. Two Eimac® 3CX800A7 tubes produces 1500 plus Watts SSB PEP with 55 Watts drive. 52 lbs., 18 1/2"Dx17Wx10H in.

AL-572, \$1395 suggested retail. New class of Near Legal Limit™ amplifier gives you 1300 Watts SSB PEP power output (70 Watts drive). 52 lbs., 18 1/2"Dx17Wx10H in.

AL-80B, \$1295 suggested retail. Gives you full kilowatt SSB PEP output (85 Watts in) from a whisper quiet compact desk-top linear. 8 1/2"x14x10 1/2".

Precision SWR/Wattmeter
AWM-30, \$149 suggested retail. Active circuit gives true peak/average readings on lighted Cross-Needle meter. 3000/300 Watt ranges. Remote sensor.

Call your dealer for your best price!

Free Catalog: 800-713-3550

AMERITRON®
... the world's high power leader!
116 Willow Road, Starkville, MS 39759

*Journal of an
unforgettable adventure at sea*



Amateur Radio aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Glacier"

By Sherman E. Carr, W9NGT

In 1987, Sherm Carr, W9NGT, Hartford, Wisconsin, took a sea cruise quite unlike any of the "Carnival" lines variety. While Amateur Radio is a major part of the voyage, there's a lot more to the story. Badger State Smoke Signals is proud that Sherm shared his journal with us, and thereby, with you, dear readers. This journal has not been altered in order to preserve the feelings it conveys. It is lengthy, and so will be printed over a period of four months or so. We hope you enjoy being at sea with Sherm and his son, Mike.

This adventure began with a letter from son Mike, First Lieutenant aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Glacier" a 9000 ton, 310 foot polar ice breaker, deployed in the Antarctic, on a science and support mission. The letter said, "Dear Dad -- pack your bags, we'll see you in Sydney!" The letter, dated 10 February, 1987, confirmed a request by Captain Hammond for approval to bring a civilian aboard with the proper licenses to handle a phone patch schedule for the crew during the last 7000 mile transit from Sydney, Australia, to Glacier's home port, Portland, Oregon. Glacier was on the way home from her 30th deployment in the Antarctic, and has a brilliant history of successful missions in the world's harshest environment. Then came a phone call from son Mike, while Glacier was in port at Hobart, Tasmania, confirming the sailing date.

The Glacier is a big, solid ship; packing 22000 plus horsepower in ten big diesel engines, and swings two 17 1/2 foot diameter propellers, driven by direct current propulsion motors about 19 feet in diameter. She can break five feet of ice at 2 1/2 knots. This ship has never been stuck in ice. Her well earned motto is "Follow Me." This is a ship with class. She even rolls with class, and roll she does.

Actually, son Mike implied there might be an operating opportunity back in October when Glacier left for the Antarctic. In a November letter, Mike indicated the official request had been made. But, until confirmation arrived, all I could do was to research and double check propagation data and expedite passport and visa paperwork. With the official approval and paperwork completed, I departed Milwaukee on 7 March, and arrived in Sydney about 1300, on 9 March. 8 March got lost somewhere over the Pacific at the International Date Line.

Customs procedure was quick; (USCGC Glacier was the magic word). Exiting to the street, I came face to face with son Mike. It was a great reunion! To the parking lot then, and bags stowed, I went around to the passenger side, but found it to be the driver's side. Mike said, "Get used to it Dad; this isn't the U.S. of A. It's left-handed traffic down here!"

Tooling around in Sydney's traffic is a hair-raising, white-knuckle experience. It didn't seem to bother Mike though. Arriving in the harbor area, we came to the dock through a huge shipping terminal. Upon emerging, there was that big red-hulled ship Glacier. She was indeed a beautiful sight!

We went aboard and stowed my gear in Mike's cabin, a double stateroom, and I got the upper bunk. We went ashore and played tourist for a while, but I was anxious to call home, so I cut the touring short. With the call completed, we went out to dinner with Supply Officer Chief Warrant Officer Bruce Brady, and another specialty civilian, George Mangold.

Back from dinner and settled in, I learned the importance of the upcoming phone patch schedule. This would be Glacier's last deployment. She was to be decommissioned in June. Because everyone on board would be reassigned, they needed to make arrangements to move to new locations and to resolve a host of other family matters.

I was saddened to learn of Glacier's decommissioning, but at the same time, I was honored to be aboard for her last voyage. I was anxious to get at the equipment manuals. The Amateur gear is all Kenwood, brand new for what proved to be Glacier's last mission. But Mike said, "All in due time," so I decided to take orders like everyone else.

for a crew that has been at sea most of the time since last October.

I was not new to Glacier. The year before, I met the ship at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and rode with her to Glacier's home port, then Long Beach. The year before that, I was aboard for part of Glacier's sea trials after a major overhaul and refitting. It was a real treat, getting re-acquainted with this great ship.

The next day, 10 March, after breakfast in the wardroom, I roamed around the ship with Mike. I had slept soundly for the first time since leaving home where I could get completely horizontal after some 22 hours in the air.

I met Captain Hammond and many of the officers and crew, and my problem of trying to remember names plagued me again. Everyone understands the problems of a WWII Navy retread though, and we got along just fine. While in Sydney, I re-adjusted to shipboard routine, and at son Mike's insistence, began this journal. I am indeed grateful to Mike for the idea of recording a truly remarkable and unforgettable experience. I have read and reread it many times since and, for the most part, this account is taken directly from it.

1600 - 10 March

After breakfast in the wardroom, into Sydney to play tourist; Mike, George, Bruce, and I. I never really know where I am, even after I get there. As long as Mike knows though, it doesn't matter.

The weather is sunny, cool and breezy. It is early Fall here, but all in all, still summer. I bought \$100 in Australian currency, and got \$142.50. We had lunch at a restaurant named "Sarah's," named for the famed Sarah Barnhardt, who it is said, was their first customer. The restaurant is some 50 feet below ground, for reasons unknown. Lunch cost, \$58.00. So far, the best food and coffee is aboard the Glacier.

Sydney is a contrast of very old and very new buildings, and construction goes on everywhere. Traffic and pedestrians both move at high speed, and one can be run over by either.

There are literally hundreds of shops, all with strange names (to me), reflecting Australia's native background and its English beginnings. Mike and Bruce took off on their own, and told George and I to meet them under the "Big Clock." Trouble was, we picked the wrong clock. We got tired of waiting and wandered back, and Mike and Bruce found us. Back on board, I am informed that we are going out to dinner again. With these prices, my \$142.50 will not last me until sailing time, on the 13th.

I still have not seen the equipment manuals. Mike again says all in due time. His confidence in my ability to sort out the bells and whistles of that new equipment may or may not be entirely justified. I haven't even seen the Ham shack yet.

2230 - still 10 March

Back aboard and settled in. Dinner was most enjoyable at a restaurant called Evans. It is in an alley, and owned and operated by a Len Evans, who is Chairman Of Judges, of the prestigious Sydney Show, a wine connoisseurs 'Organisation.' It was agreed we would dine here on Thursday, the day before we sail. The food, wine, and atmosphere are superb. Also very costly. I have to buy more currency tomorrow.

1000 - 11 March

There is no trouble waking up on this ship. Hit the deck at 0700, had breakfast in the wardroom, and off to play tourist. A highlight is Sydney's famous opera house, a futuristic design that leaves one somewhat puzzled. Another is Signal Hill, and Australia's first lighthouse, in continuous service since 1830. From here there is a magnificent view of Sydney and the huge, natural harbor. Outside the harbor, the

Back aboard, changed clothes and attended luncheon at the Australian Navy Officers Club as a guest of the U.S. Navy Liaison Officer. It was a buffet, but with fine china, silver, atmosphere and variety of cuisine that would make some class hotels look like Pete's Beanery.

The Australian Military knows how to live. The club is all red mahogany, with the old traditional frescoed trim, terrazzo floors, and huge leather easy chairs and sofas, with numerous small polished mahogany tables. Etched and frosted glass is everywhere. Any uneasiness I felt was quickly dispelled by the warmth and easy manners of these "Aussies," in spite of the full dress white uniforms. These are quality people.

Back aboard, I finally got at the Kenwood manuals while Mike went looking for some navigation books he'd heard about. The hamshack was completely reworked since last I saw it, and is set up similar to the Operations Radio room. The operating desk is athwartships, ostensibly to minimize effects of the ship's roll. We'll see.

All antennas, audio, and control circuits are terminated in an efficient patch panel, and can be set up in a variety of options. There is even a phone patch to the ship's telephone system. The Kenwood 430-S drives a big commercial specification linear, with output capability far beyond the legal limit. It is typical of Coast Guard practice; redundancy and backup that is the essence of reliability. It was obviously set up by someone with communications fundamentals and logistics requirements well in hand. An 830-S and a somewhat smaller linear is the backup gear.

The only unshielded conductors in the shack are in the line cord to the clock. If there exists an Amateur's dream radio shack, this is it. It will be a fun operation. The manuals are somewhat obscure, but I am making progress.

2230 - still 11 March

Back from dinner ashore, which was so-so. Everyone is anxious to get under way, including me. Legally, the gear cannot be fired up until we are at sea. Almost the entire crew was aboard when we came back. Settled in with coffee, but I fell asleep reading those murky manuals.

0930 - 12 March

Mike briefed me on my emergency operations station and various drill procedures. Strictly routine, but everyone on board must learn and demonstrate that they are understood, and follow them to the letter. Being in the emergency business back home, I have no problem with this facet of shipboard practice. In fact, it is singularly reminiscent of my Navy days.

There is to be a Captain's luncheon at 1230 for local officials and dignitaries, including Sydney City Government people, Diplomatic and Military personnel, both U.S. and Australian. More later.

1800 - still 12 March

The Captain's luncheon is over. And again, I was impressed with the quality of these people. The cooks are marvels. Mike says they're used to these affairs, as they happen in every foreign port Glacier visits. I can vouch for them; they are as good as any, better than most. The hangar deck, with the two big red helicopters parked near the stern rail, was a most impressive setting.

What apparently intrigued the local people most was that a civilian can travel on a military ship. I am not sure my explanations were adequate, but these fine people were most gracious. My poor memory for names again plagued me; There were simply too many. I was planning to look at the guest list, but never got around to it. I remembered only several people (a lousy record): A Janet O'Conner, an Australian lady in the U.S. Information Service, A Mr. Robert Taylor, an Australian Naval Historian, and a Mr. David O'Leary, Vice Consul for the City of Sydney. It was most interesting.

Just time for a final tour of shops for presents and post cards, and we were back aboard by 1730. It was hot today, and being transplanted from Wisconsin where March weather can still be pretty grim, I was not used to it. Just time to get cleaned up, and dinner. More later.

2230 - still 12 March

Back from dinner at Evans' that again was superb. I learned the full name of the restaurant, which is "Len Evans' Wine Tasting And Beef Room." I had prime rib of veal. I lost track of the courses, with a different wine for each course. Before the meal I had asked for a cocktail, but was politely informed that they did not serve 'spirits'. George was back in the kitchen with the chef, and claimed to have learned a special recipe. What with the wine at every course and often in between, it is highly doubtful that anyone learned much, if anything. We also set a new record. Dinner for five of us was \$270.00. It's a tough life.

Forgot to mention that we took a cab this evening, as the rental cars are all turned in. About Sydney cab drivers; they are absolute maniacs. They have brought "Chicken" to a fine art.

And now it is bunk time. Sailing time is 0800, and Glacier arrives and departs on time, to the minute. Special Sea Detail is 0600, and everyone, me included, will be up and ready to go.

0845 - 13 March

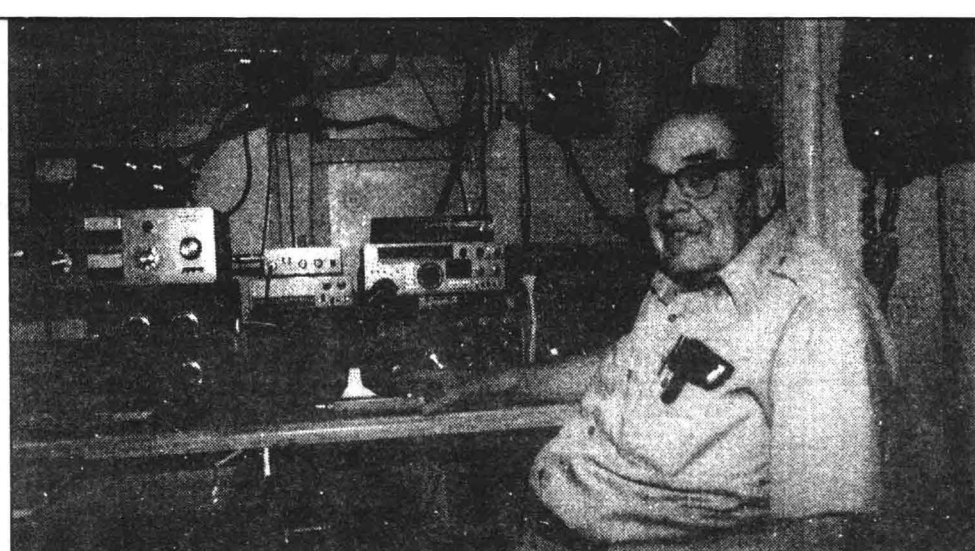
We are under way for Maui, 15 days away. As advertised, Glacier eased away from the dock at 0800. We had to back down for some distance, as the mooring slip has no turning space. At 310 feet, Glacier needs room to maneuver. She stirred up a lot of mud with those 17 1/2 foot wheels, with less than five feet under her keel. Fully loaded, Glacier draws 29 feet, from waterline to keel.

It is good to hear and feel the engines. They have a deep, soul-satisfying rumble that will be steady and unceasing for 15 days.

The weather is ideal; a clear cloudless sky and a brisk breeze. Once turned around, we were saluted by a number of Australian Military ships on our way out. We are clear of the harbor, and the long Pacific ground swell is evident. Our course is 070, and we'll be in the trough for several hours before coming to course 010. The ship rolls up to ten degrees but the only problem is my penmanship.

1430 - still 13 March

I met with Chief Electronics Technician Mike Parsons, and he filled me in on the



Sherm Carr, W9NGT, is shown here at the Amateur Radio operating position aboard the Glacier. Many phone patches were made through the station for crew members to their families in the U.S.

Photo courtesy W9NGT

antenna configurations. The superstructure is a veritable forest of antennas, some 54 in all. Coast Guard practice dictates separate transmit and receive antennas. Our transmit antenna is a three band vertical in the exact center of the hanger deck overhead, about 53 feet above the water at its base. It loads up with virtually zero reflected power.

The receiving antenna is a fibre glass enclosed 36 foot Phelps Dodge vertical unit in a cluster of other antennas, and I am apprehensive. Our ultimate rumb line course is 046, and, as configured, the receiving antenna will favor about 180 to 240 degrees. When I voiced my concern, Chief Parsons said, "If it doesn't work, we'll change it."

As everything terminates in patch panels, antennas can be configured with many options. Chief Technician Mike implied there would be no problem. Aboard the Glacier there is a well verified axiom: "When we sail, what we don't have, we don't need."

I monitored 20 meters since about 1030, but signals, except for Australians, are almost non-existent. The Kenwood gear tuned up perfectly. I set the AGC in the big linear to the legal limit, and made some calls, and got excellent reports from some VK's. No Hawaii or U.S. stations though. I have a vague suspicion that the propagation window will not agree with my data. Just a hunch. I won't know for sure until I can contact some KH6's in the Islands.

Visited with Chief Radioman Mike Hoopah (Lots of Mikes) and got a tour of the Operations radio room. It is right across the passageway from the hamshack, two decks below the bridge. The OPS radio room is most impressive. Predominant mode is RTTY, and some SSB voice. VHF FM is the helicopter mode. CW is very rarely used. Honolulu is solid in their receivers.

The ship has been rolling some since we left Sydney, and affects my penmanship. I must get set up better, or I won't be able to read my writing.

We are suddenly running smoother. Son Mike came in, and I am informed we've come to 040 for a time. The weather is great, and it is pleasant on deck, but it's time for another go at the hamshack.

Receive sensitivity and the propagation window are my prime concerns and must be resolved ASAP!

1745 - still 13 March

Supper was great. I missed lunch and didn't realize how hungry I was until I got to the wardroom and smelled the aroma. Beef pot roast, noodles and broccoli, vegetable soup, and a great salad. Brought my second cup of coffee down to son Mike's cabin to work on while I write. I can now go up and down ladders (stairways for the non-sailors) without spilling anything.

Up on deck for a while. Seas are a deep blue with only a touch of white water here and there. The ship rides easy. I can feel a slight lurch now and then, as Glacier elbows her way through the seas. It is good to feel a moving deck under my feet again. She rumbles softly on, with four engines on the line, at 13.6 knots.

My mind reverts to the upcoming decommissioning now and then, with some sadness, I must admit. It is better perhaps, to think of it as a well deserved retirement.

2300 - still 13 March

Settled in, and son Mike is at his paperwork. The cabin has two sets of everything, including two fold out desks and lamps. There is a four inch stanchion between them, and if I brace my chair between the desk and Mike's bunk, and wedge my foot against the stanchion, I can write quite well.

Heard the Maritime Net on 14.313 MHz, and also a stateside station with a pronounced echo. I haven't heard dual path propagation since WWII over in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic. It sure takes one back in years. All signals are very weak though.

Lieutenant Laurie Dowd, the Communications Officer, visited me in the hamshack, to see how things were going. A very sharp young lady. She explained that OPS traffic will taper off soon, and when I have the propagation window established, we will have plenty of operating time. Sounds good.

I almost forgot to mention to son Mike that my friend Bill Reed, W9PAS, gave me a map of the entire Pacific, with instructions to plot our course thereon. Accordingly Mike called the bridge, got our position, and we made our first position plot.

I heard WWVH on 15 MHz, just before coming down, but very weak. I am increasingly suspicious of the receiving antenna. I'll see Chief Mike Parsons first thing tomorrow to run some tests with his signal generator, and if they turn out as I suspect, see if we can switch to a 38 foot Phelps Dodge fiber-glass sheathed vertical on the starboard bridge wing. I remember from patch traffic last year that it was the receiving antenna, and it worked great. Bunk time now though.

Continued next month

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

MEETING MINUTES December 1, 1998

I. Meeting was called to order by N9SDI. Members present were: N9SDI, N9MEA, N9LIA, N9NQ, N9NRC, N3FDE, N9PHC, KB9MCZ, W9VHA, N9TTA, N9NMH, N9NQW, W9WW, KB9FRB, KB9DZG, N9IAB, KB9DED, W9QM and Dick Sternberg (son of W9VHA and formerly WA9HFT).

II. Minutes (Published in BSSS) and treasurer's report correction to November minutes. Also, thanks to KB9RXA for helping at the Scout Camporee. Approval KB9DZG and W9WW. Treasurer's report. Approval N9LIA and N9TTA.

III. Upcoming Events
Badger State Winter Games - Feb. 6 and 7, 1999 (N9IAB contact)
Special Olympics - Feb. 20 and 21, 1999 (N9LIA contact)

IV. Old Business
Status of 6m repeater - Up and running, thanks to N9MEA and N9NMH.
Net controls (N9NMH) - need net controls - contact N9NMH.

Possible Hamfest - Aug. 1999 - need chairman - got letter from Yellow Thunder Am. Radio Club - their Hamfest is Aug. 14, 1999 - If we go ahead, we will need to look more closely and check with vendors to avoid conflicts.

Trustee Policies - RMRA has one. We will review and possibly adopt.

Other - Auction income was \$600.25 since, most sellers donated their earnings.

V. New Business

Upcoming programs:

Jan. 5 - Discussion on Winter Projects (Badger State and Spec. Olympics) - N9IAB and N9LIA.

Club dues / Income - considerable discussion about decline in membership and dues income. Several suggestions presented. KB9MCZ volunteered to be on a membership committee. Ideas and concerns to be presented on the Wednesday night net.

Board to write new preamble to emphasize benefits of club membership. To be discussed and next Board Meeting 12/15 and action taken at general meeting Jan 5, 1999.

VI. Next Meeting - Jan 5. - Service Projects N9IAB and N9LIA.

VII. Adjournment KB9DED and N9LIA.

Program for the evening was: Radio testing by Mark, N9MEA. Mark demonstrated test equipment to check out radios. Several HTs of club members were checked. Thanks, Mark.

N9SDI for N9SDM

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Secretary

213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1300	0700	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1900	1300	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	0030	1830	WB9WHO
WNN	Yes	3723	0100	1700	KB9OCZ
WSSN	Yes	3645	0130	1930	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0200	2000	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0500	2300	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CDT)	0130 (Menomonie Area)	1930	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0345	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0300	2100	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1500	0900	WA9OAY

WISCONSIN NTS TRAFFIC REPORT November 1998

Traffic and check-ins were both down a little in November. With all seven nets reporting in, 3072 stations passed 2035 messages in 5296 minutes. BWN/1691, BEN/57, WSBN/93, WNN/18, WSSN/21, WIN-E/103, and WIN-L/52.

Eight stations had traffic totals in excess of 100, five of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations were: K9JPS/1047 (BPL), K9GU/644 (BPL), W9IHW/641 (BPL), K9RTB/533 (BPL), W9CBE/529 (BPL), WB9PPY/486, W9YCV/150, and AF9FA/136. Twenty seven

stations submitted Station Activity Reports, and eleven stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll Reports.

Wisconsin has a new Section Emergency Coordinator, Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR. A big tip of the hat to John Leekley, WB9SMM, for the excellent job he has done for the state for the last several years. Well done, John. And I encourage everyone to give Stan the same support in the future that you have given to John in the past. Welcome aboard, Stan.

Wisconsin needs another digital (pac-tor/amtor) station to give some relief to Hale Blakely, W9CBE. Hale has been

Continued on page 11

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
Dennis Doonan, W9DAD, Secretary
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net

Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>
Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated
Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES



Racine Megacycle Club Silent Keys

Remembering those who have gone before

Harold Kent, W9AGX
Don Evan, W9AJF
Harold Kartman, W9APB
Lester Hynek, W9BES
William Marsh, W9BRL
Elton Miottel, W9BVG
Francis Staudenraos, WA9DHO
Ransom Defaut, W9DUR
Steve Soltes, K9EWL
Edwin Kriz (ex W9AQU), W9FKA
Kenneth Howe, W9HFL
Virgil Daniels, W9IZL
Walter Mills, W9IZW
Larry Guilette, W9KBH
Vilho Kinos, W9KYI
George Butgereit, W9KZU
John Shimkus, W9JIM
Donald Stange, W9NTE
Al Evans, W9OZR
Wilfred Simonsen, W9PFH
Jack Pinard, W9PTF
Lowell McNeill, W9PTN
Raymond Bayer, W9QGR 2/81
F. Lee Dechant, W9QC
George Starek, W9RCC
William T. Lewis (ex W9TL), W9RM
Ken Hanson, K9SLS
Charles Bresette, W9YYL
Richard Sustachek, W9YPD
Donald Larimer, W9IYP
Anthony Pellegrino, W9TXI
Maurice Otto, W9PMQ
Art Sorenson, W9CAR
Roger Jensen, W9DJT

Bill Letsom, W9WWH
Lee Lucas, WB9ZKZ
Art Dick, WA9UTB
Stan Fisher, W9EQ
Don Fisher, W9YBA
Elliott Dugas, N9AME
Dick Larson, NW9M 2/10/97
Bruce Zabler, K9RRS 11/25/96
Bill Halliday, W9HDW
Ray Geschke, K9ATL
Mike Vittaco, W9PHT
Don Meredith, K9CAL
Dick Johnson, W9ZNB 1996
Willard Zahalka, W9CFP
Oscar Hardin, WN9TCF
Jim Chalekian, W9HHM
Joseph Karr, N9FAU 5/6/97
Jack Wilkenson, W9STO
Red Barrett, W9JFE
Bert Valley, (unknown)
Olin D. Fox, K9AKG
George Porter, W9SZL
Wilbur Fritz, W9YZA
Edwin Lettsome, W9LJF 11/13/97
John Joswik, W9OXD
Robert Kozlik, W9UIT
Nick Pavia, W9VQW
Peter R. Skolweck, W9PKC
Albert Cooper, W9FAF
Charles Roberts, W9YKE
Elmer Petersen, WA9QEM
Norman O. Merz, W9YNB
Lawrence A. 'Jim' Fox, W9LXY
William Folk, KB9PUD 12/15/98

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



Our November meeting ran into a gremlin! I scheduled it on the third Monday at 7:30 at a Kenosha restaurant, as is the standing procedure for our normal monthly night business meeting. We arrived Monday evening, many were early to dine before the heated business of the evening wore them to a frazzle, the restaurant personnel stated we were listed on the "room scheduling calendar" to meet at 7:30 a.m. The meeting room was currently occupied by Monday Night Football Fans. After dining, our meeting perils were alleviated, as Al (W9HR) and Mamie Algiers invited the gang over to their home. Our meeting was saved, as was our shoe leather, the Algiers live only about 50 yards from the restaurant.

Our Christmas party was a smashing success (I hope, as I sit here writing about how wonderful an event was before it happened). We met at the Chancery restaurant in the new Radisson Hotel, just off

I-94 at highway 165 in Kenosha. An exchange of small gifts, enlightening conversation, and an enjoyable meal guided our Chapter through a joyous holiday event.

Several months back, this column, was guilty of spreading a vicious rumor that Robert Burgermeister, W9EH, was contemplating stepping into the bonds of matrimony. This column's author was accused of willfully misleading the general public with false lies about a confirmed bachelor. This confirmed bachelor, I have now been told, has been hooked, reeled in, and is standing at the matrimonial gate. Congratulations Bob, we all voted, you have a keeper in Chris. And, our congratulations to Chris on joining the Amateur ranks with the Ham Call KB9TPB. And Bob's daughter Bridget will soon allow him into the Grandparent fraternity with the arrival of his first grandchild.

Continued on page 11

QCWA Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Continued from page 10

My knowledge of member activities has waned. I am in need of enlightenment. Tell me about your activities, your trips, your dreams, or what your neighbors are doing. I care not, I come only seeking

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Continued from page 10

handling several hundred messages per month and needs some help. Anyone who is interested in becoming a digital rep for Wisconsin, contact either Hale or me.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM

material for this tabloid. You may tell me tales that hold no truth, and I shall, in the true spirit of journalism, cause them to be printed for all the world to see.

Our business meeting for January will be on Monday the 18th at 7:30 p.m. (I'll guess it will be held at the Meadow's Restaurant in Franksville) at a place to be determined. Tune in our weekly net, Thursdays, 9 p.m., 147.27 MHz for the official notification.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet or e-mail.

My packet address is:
KA9KLZ @ KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is:
aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

Submitted by:

Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager
December 7, 1998

Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output



MANCORAD MINUTES December 8, 1998

The monthly meeting of ManCoRad was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by President, Fred, W6BSF. Introductions were made all around.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in *Badger State Smoke Signals*. The motion was made by Dick, N9QFY, and seconded by Barney, N9XER.

A motion was made by Eric, AF9J, and seconded by Barney, N9XER, to accept the treasurer's report given by Roger, W9NPX.

OLD BUSINESS

The club received a thank you from the Welnicke family in regard to flowers we sent upon the death of Paul's, AA9WI, father. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Our Christmas party is fast approaching. We have quite a few reservations and it should be a good social.

Fred, W6BSF, is organizing a clean-up for the club room at city hall. It is set for Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. It was suggested to inventory everything first and bring the list to the club meeting and then decide what to keep and what goes. If you can help, please contact Fred.

Fred, W6BSF, asked about interest in Field Day. It will be kept on a back burner for now.

The fall club picnic is set for October 9, 1999 at Lincoln Park, Cabin No. 1. There will also be a T-hunt again, which was a lot of fun.

Fred, W6BSF, is working on a new roster. He hopes to have it printed to hand out at the January meeting.

Fred is also looking to find out who has keys for the club room. If you have a set contact Fred.

One of our club members, John Meyer, NZ9Z, is on the Pacific island of Palau right now until the 17th of December. They are operating all bands, and their call sign is T88II. It will be interesting to hear of his adventures when he returns.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred, W6BSF, suggested having a drawing at each meeting for a door prize. He asked for membership approval and a motion was made by Denise, N4WGK, and seconded by Eric, AF9J, to go ahead. All members names will be put in, and if they are not present the prize is increased for the next meeting. He will start this at the January meeting.

Ron, WS9X, has volunteered to do membership cards again and will also re-do the macros. He also volunteered himself and his XYL, Janice, N9IQZ, to make up a flyer for our hamfest on May 8, 1999.

Ron also brought up about ham radio classes for this winter. Last year, there was only one person interested. Perhaps we need to advertise it more. Roger, W9NPX, suggested going to schools and do a program on what ham radio is and benefits of being an Amateur Radio operator. This would also give the club some publicity by having the local paper take pictures, etc.

Fred, W6BSF, wants to form a hamfest committee. Glenn, AA9MT, our retired treasurer, took on these duties besides his treasurer duties. If you are interested in helping to organize our only fund raiser all year, please contact Fred.

Denise, N4WGK, reported that her and Roger, W9NPX, went to visit Chuck, W9BZU. He is doing fine and he sends holiday greetings to everyone. They took him a little ceramic Christmas tree for his room. He listens to 2 meters so he knows what's going on with the club.

It was left up to the membership present at the meeting, if we wanted to continue with lunch after our meetings. It was agreed to continue because it is a way to talk more ham radio. Janice, N9IQZ, offered to take care of getting the food.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 with a motion by Eric, AF9J, and seconded by Barney, N9XER.

After the meeting Ron, WS9X, showed his collection of old novelty and transistor AM radios. He also gave a little

Please turn to page 12



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Steve Eisold, AA9SJ, Secretary

2220 N. 20th Street • Sheboygan WI 53083

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The December meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Vice-president, Larry, WB9FXQ, at 7 p.m. local time.

There were 13 members present at the meeting. The SCARC meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan.

John Weeden, Red Cross director, gave the group an update on the remodeling of the building. A new conference room is being built upstairs and upon its completion in late February the scouts will be putting their equipment in the area that we are presently using. The area downstairs on the east wall of the meeting room, approximately 9 x 12, will be walled off and become our new secured area. A single internal wall and locking door will need to be constructed, either professionally or by club members. Mr. Weeden said that the Red Cross will be happy to split the cost of materials with the club. Anyone interested in helping with design, or construction should contact a member of the board. We will have to get moving on this project in the next two months. Our present meeting area will still be available along with the new conference room upstairs for VE exams. Mr. Weeden said he hopes the Red Cross and SCARC would keep a good working relationship as in the past.

The Board decided that since there has been little to no use of the HF Club station, it will not be set up in the new station area. HF equipment will be offered for sale, first to club members, then to other hams. A VHF and packet station will be included in construction plans.

Steve, N9TRK, gave the treasurer's report. With no expenses again this month, the balance came to \$1514.60. Checking account balance sheets and club rosters are available from Steve at each meeting.

Ham of the Year nomination forms were distributed at the meeting. Nomina-

tions will be accepted until the January meeting. Nominations must be in written form. Art, K9XJ, winner of the award last year, will be heading the judging committee this year. Forms are available from any board member.

The Valentines Dinner committee is getting a slow start forming. If you are interested in attending or helping with arrangements contact Steve, N9TRK. Those attending must contact Steve no later than the January meeting.

Bob, KG9OM, will be beginning a Novice and Tech license course in January or early February. He is planning between 6-8 weeks for class length. If you know of any interested prospective hams, have them get in touch with Bob.

We were also reminded that Field Day is only 6 months away. Bob, KG9OM, has stepped forward and will be in charge of the 1999 SCARC station this year. Bob is looking for any interested operators to begin planning.

The SCARC Activity Award for the month of December was awarded to Steve, AA9SJ, for most logged contacts. Remember, any member can get involved with this award, just log your contacts and bring the log to the January meeting. Repeater contacts are not allowed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

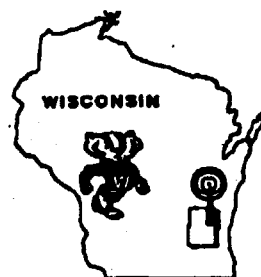
For those of you who are not on the Web and have correspondence for the club, our address is: PO Box 1282, Sheboygan WI. 53082-1282.

Net Schedules

8 p.m. Monday nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

10 Meter Net, Monday nights following the 2 meter net, 28.350 USB.

Respectfully submitted:
Steve Eisold, AA9SJ



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799

Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

MEETING MINUTES December 10, 1998

President Paul (Rip) Ripple, W9SIZ, called the December 10, 1998 meeting of the Washington County ARC to order at 7:57 PM with 11 members present. They were: Tom, N9LZW; Rip, W9SIZ; Ed, AA9WW; David, KA9RNU; Walt, N9LLS; Brian, KB9NLF; Jim, KB9LTW; Kevin, N9LTH; Sherm, W9NGT; Paul, N9KIK; and Gary, W9XT.

Secretary Tom, N9LZW, read the minutes of the November 11th meeting. Rip (W9SIZ) noted that Larry, WB9BVB, had been omitted on the listing of Nominating Committee members. Tom, N9LZW, said that he had already made the correction in the minutes. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Brian, KB9NLF, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Dave, KA9RNU, gave a Financial Report. There are presently 29 club members. There was a motion by Kevin, N9LTH, seconded by Gary, W9XT, to accept the Financial Report.

Motion carried.

Rip, W9SIZ, reported that Frank Bliesner, W9NXM, has a Yaesu 757 transceiver and power supply for sale. Frank is asking \$600.00 for the set.

Jim, KB9LTW, reported on the progress of the Nominating Committee. Jim said that the committee has one candidate for each of the club offices and that other club members need to be contacted yet. If interested in any of the offices, please contact one of the committee members. They are Bob, KG9CW; Bill, N9IBU; Larry, WB9BVB; Paul, N9KIK; and Jim, KB9LTW. Ed, AA9WW, has been selected as an alternate.

Rip, W9SIZ, gave a report on the repeater. He said that Don, K9GR, may not have time to work on the repeater for a while because of a work commitment.

Rip, W9SIZ, proposed a new dues structure. The club had previously voted to establish the dues at \$10.00. Rip proposed that we offer a Family Membership for \$15.00 and an Associate Membership for

Please turn to page 12

ManCoRad Radio Club

Continued from page 11

history of the transistor. In 1945, the first transistor was made and sold for \$20.00. Zenith hearing aids were the first place transistors were used. He has a Regency TR1, which is the first transistor radio made and it sold for \$49.95 at Christmas in 1954. Thanks, Ron it was very interesting and the hamburger and hot dog radios were my favorites.

Submitted for approval:
Mary Langer, KB9GOY
Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 9, 1999: Cleanup of club room
Apr. 24 and 25: Sub weekend on USS

Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 11

\$5.00. With the Family Membership, only licensed Amateur Radio operators would have voting privileges. Associate members would have no voting privilege. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Brian, KB9NLM, to adopt the President's proposal on the dues structure. Motion carried.

New Business

David, KA9RNU, said that he wanted to have the members present at the meeting vote on the menu for the Annual Banquet. Result of the voting is as follows: meats, Chicken Dijon and Barbecued Ribs; potato, mashed; salad, lettuce; and vegetable, Bean casserole. Rip, W9SIZ, said that his wife, Elaine, has volunteered to make a dessert. Because we are providing a dessert, the cost of the meal will be just \$13.00. Those who have paid an additional amount will receive a refund. Members should contact David, KA9RNU, with their reservations and payments. David can be reached by phone at 414-334-6194, email at parknson@execpc.com, or mail at 1811 Longmeadow Drive, West Bend, WI 53095.

There was open discussion about PRB-1 and tower requirements. One of our members is planning to install a tower and is being informed by a building inspector that he needs to obtain and pay for a conditional use permit. It was recommended that the member contacts the elected officials of this community and that he provides them with a detailed drawing of the planned installation, its specifications that exceed that which are required, and information on PRB-1.

Cobia
May 8: Hamfest
Oct. 9: Fall picnic, Lincoln Park, Cabin 1

MEETING ATTENDANCE

KB9NTL	Don
WS9X	Ron
W9NPX	Roger
N9XEZ	Bill
N9IQZ	Janice
W6BSF	Fred
N9QFY	Dick
WB9DQD	Gene
KB9GOY	Mary
K9HAG	Ken
N4WGK	Denise
WD9ERM	Conrad
N9XER	Barney
W9OMO	Ervin
AF9J	Eric
AA9WI	Paul

The NConnect representative did not appear at the meeting so the president directed the entertainment committee chairman Paul, N9KIK, to reschedule NConnect for a future meeting.

There was a motion by Kevin, N9-LTH, seconded by Brian, KB9NLF, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Thomas W Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary

Calendar

01/02/99: 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
01/07/99: 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730
01/09/99: 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson
01/14/99: 7:30 p.m., Annual Club meeting and Elections. Program: Five questions about your ham radio interests.
01/16/99: 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Alma's Cafe on Addison Rd north of CTH K
01/16/99: 6:00 p.m., Cocktail hour, Heidelberg's on CTH P south of Jackson
01/16/99: 7:00 p.m., Annual dinner banquet, Heidelberg's on CTH P south of Jackson
01/21/99: 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730
01/23/99: 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
01/28/99: 7:30 p.m., Net, 146.730
01/30/99: 9:00 a.m., Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA sponsors and guests.

Welcome to the new year.

Attendance at the November Social Hour set a new record. Please note that there were three YLs present.

KE9CS	KB9NIR
KB9QKG	"Baby Girl" Marissa
KB9LUK	N9PPE
W9AVM	N9LIJ
WB9PMF	N9VOY
KA9OMC	KF9CU

and Dave.

N9PPE, Jeff Cole at Bloomer, has been testing the calibration of some clothes

irons that he expects to use in the placement of covering airplane wings.

N0YNT, Matt Genelin, is attending UW-Stout, and is working at getting a club going on campus. Contact Matt at N0YNT@AMSAT.ORG or (715) 232-2929.

WB9YMB, Jim Hilborn, and KB9-TAC, Andy Wagner, both found holiday spirit in volunteering. Jim helped serve meals at Thanksgiving and Andy helped wrap gifts for the kids.

KE9CS, Ken Dicks, is looking for reports of signals on the 145.61 MHz

Continued on page 13

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS, LTD.

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

WATTS SNOO

AMATEUR RADIO
CWRA

WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

2229 Dixon Street • Stevens Point, WI 54481

Meeting Minutes December 14, 1998

President Al Mallek, K9WVM, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as printed in the Badger State Smoke Signals. Also, a motion was made and passed to approve the treasurer's report as well.

Mary Eiden, KG9OK, reported (via e-mail from Mike Pagel, K9UW) that Ron Howe, NJ9H, has a list of autodial numbers and other items for .985, but has not been able to implement them yet. Mary will report any new paid members so that the list can be updated. There have been no problems related to operation of the .67 system. The link continues perform well.

Mike Pagel wished to thank all those who helped with the packing and moving of equipment and material in the club station. His e-mail stated that with any luck, we will be able to re-establish ourselves later this month or in January. He will use the e-mail list to notify the group when we will be able to do this. Some items were moved into storage and others were moved across the hall into the new club station. Also, Bruce Walther, W9-QAH, purchased several parts and other items that were in the club station.

A motion was made by Jan Rydberg, KB9RUJ, and seconded by Roger Kanieski, N9RK, to purchase the ARRL's recruitment video; the motion was passed. This video will be used by Kris Scheppe, KB9LYT. He will be showing it on the UWSP campus to try and recruit new members.

Joe Larson, N9JW, reported that there was testing held at the UWSP Science Building on Saturday, December 5. Alex Jasper, KB9TTO, and Corey Kazickowski, KB9TTP, received their Novice li-

censes and Adam Molski, KB9TTQ, is a Technician. Congratulations to these new licensees. A big thank you to Mike Pagel, K9UW, Mary Eiden, KG9OK, Don Williamson, KB9KFA, and John Feltz, W9JF, who were examiners at this session. Joe reported that he contacted the examiners in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield about having regular exams in Central Wisconsin. Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield sent responses to Joe saying they would be interested in holding exams in their area. The plan is to tentatively have exams six times a year. There will be a list of examiners made up so that if enough examiners are not available in the location where the exam is to be held, others from outside the community can be contacted to see if they would be willing to help with exams. This will start sometime in February or March.

The January Banquet will be held at the Sky Club on January 13, 1999. Happy Hour will be at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Those attending will be able to either order off the menu or go to the buffet as we did last year. To make your reservation, call Jan Rydberg at 342-2271 or e-mail Mary Eiden at maeiden@g2a.net.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

The next meeting will our annual banquet.

Mary Eiden, KG9OK
CWRA Secretary

Attendance

Mary Eiden	KG9OK
Al Mallek	K9WVM
Jan Rydberg	KB9RUJ
Mike Eiden	N9MI
Roger Kaniewski	N9RK
Al Mallek	N9WBS
Joe Larson	N9JW

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Bill Yeager, Sr., N9FSZ, President

979 N. Front Street, P. O. Box 283

Rib Lake, WI 54470

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The January meeting will include a special "post-Christmas" social gathering for all Taylor County area Amateur Radio operators. The club will be providing refreshments, including cookies, bars, cheese, sausage and crackers, as well as coffee, hot chocolate and cold soda. We hope that you will consider joining us at the January meeting for some good fellowship and treats. A video will also be shown.

Thanks to our participating clubs.
We're happy to work for and with
you, and we look forward to
providing continued service to
your members in 1999!

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequencies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

Taylor County ARES has received a request for radio communications services for the 7th Annual Perkinstown Tramp Snowshoe Races and Tours, to be held on Saturday, January 16, 1999 in the Perkinstown area of Taylor County. Organizers are requesting more services from us this year than in the past, and your help would be greatly appreciated! Please mark your calendars and try to keep this date open. More details will be forthcoming, hopefully in time for the January club meeting.

Continued on page 13

Red Cedar Repeater Association

Continued from page 12

packet node at Wheeler. Contact Ken at DICKSK@WIN-BRIGHT.NET.

KB9LUK, James Kinney at Eau Claire, is seeking to link packet from the Twin Cities to W9NNS through this area. Interested parties should contact James at WIZARD17@HOTMAIL.COM. James also has a 14-inch color monitor and a Panasonic TV camera for sale. Call him at (715) 283-4373.

Sorry to hear of the passing of WD9-IJY, Don Rassbach, at Eau Claire. Don was responsible for the association securing a tower site in the late 70s.

Our sincere appreciation to everyone who has sent renewal support for the repeater. We have currently 37 sponsors where we had 67 last year.

Please plan to attend the club auction scheduled for February 23, 1999 at the American Legion Post 53 at 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Auction time is 7

p.m. sharp. Doors open at 6 p.m. for you to set up your items. Equipment should pertain to the electronics hobby. Please mark all items with some identification and what you will accept for a minimum bid. Some snacks and coffee will be provided. W9QAH, Bruce Walther, will auction your items to the highest bidder. The RCRA is not responsible for physical or any property loss. Keep track of your stuff. All sales are final and we will sell what time will allow. Admission is \$4 at the door or paid 1999 RCRA support. RCRA will retain 10% of all sales to offset expenses. Door prizes will be offered. Come to buy, sell, or just to have fun. See you at the Eau Claire Auction.

The next social hour is at the Pepper-mill Restaurant in the L-Mart shopping center, 1414 9th Street, Menomonie. Date of the meeting is January 26 and the time is 7:30 p.m. This is a meeting to organize help for the auction. We will need floor clerks and setup help, as well as kitchen helpers. Donations of food items are also welcome.

RCRA Secretary/Treasurer KA9OMC

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 12

CONGRATULATIONS TO..

Bill (N9FSZ) and Vi Yeager of Rib Lake, WI, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on October 20, 1998.

OTHER NEWS

• Word has been received that Ed Malinowski, KA9MVG, of Loyal, is now residing at Bethel Nursing and Rehab Center, 8014 Bethel Rd., Arpin, WI 54410. The telephone no. at the center is 715-652-2103. Directions from Marshfield: Appx. 7 miles south on Hwy. 13 to County Trunk Hwy. N where it goes west. West on CTH N, appx. 1/2 mile west of the intersection of CTH T to Bethel Rd., then just south of the intersection on the left-hand side of the road. Visitors would be appreciated and welcome.

• Effective 12/15/98, the 147.75/15

repeater located at Medford, WI is now on full-time PL (CTCSS) access. The tone is 114.8 Hz (tone 2A).

IMPORTANT REMINDER

1999 Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club membership dues and *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscription renewals are now due and payable. Dues can be paid at an upcoming meeting or can be sent to acting club treasurer Bernie Jari, KA9WDX, W3159 Hanley Lane, Medford, WI 54451. Dues are \$10.00/year. The club member's share of their club subscription to BSSS is \$7.00/year for 1999. Checks should be made payable to Taylor Co. Area Amateur Radio Club.

NOTE: If your club dues and/or BSSS subscription are NOT paid for by February 28, 1999, your access to the autopatch and other new repeater features will be revoked and your BSSS subscription will be terminated. Also, the club treasury is presently at an all-time low, but we still have regular expenses to pay for. So get those dues in today! Don't delay!

□

Sullivan Committee Skywarn meeting notes

By Skip Voros/WD9HAS,
Sullivan Committee P.R. Chair
414/475-6200 svoros@execpc.com

- Overview
- Winter Skywarn Operations
- Spring Training Schedule
- Open House at the NWS
- I.D. Badges
- Reporting Procedures-Reporting Criteria
- Special Event Station

OVERVIEW

The most recent meeting of the Sullivan Committee ("SC") was held Saturday December 12, 1998, at the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office in Sullivan, Wisconsin. The SC is the ham radio governing body that interfaces between the NWS and the Amateur Radio repeater operators, Net Control Stations, liaisons, and individual hams for south-central and southeast Wisconsin who perform Skywarn operations. Skywarn is the identification, evaluation, and reporting of dangerous weather.

The south-central and southeastern counties for which the NWS, and the Committee officiate include: Marquette, Green Lake, Fond Du Lac, Sheboygan, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Iowa, Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Lafayette, Green, Rock, Walworth, Racine, and Kenosha counties.

When weather warnings are needed for those counties, the Sullivan NWS office will issue them, similarly ALL severe weather reports within those counties are forwarded to Sullivan. The NWS offices at Green Bay, La Crosse, Minneapolis, and Duluth have responsibility for the remaining Wisconsin counties regarding warnings and spotter reports respectively.

The Sullivan Committee encourages all hams in our area to keep up with these proceedings and become actively involved. There is no such thing as too many reports, or too many repeaters doing nets. The fact of the matter is that each severe weather event helps to continually test our emergency communication skills, our emergency operational readiness, our ability to work with other served agencies, as well as justify our very existence in the sometimes shrinking ham bands.

WINTER SKYWARN

While most summertime severe weather operations are for short-fused, and small-scale events, winter Skywarn activities are needed from time to time to help the NWS verify forecasts and weather data products on storm systems that are more slower in movement and cover a much wider area, yet still are life-threatening.

According to Rusty Kapela, the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the

Sullivan NWS, severe winter weather reports are needed from Amateur Radio operators when observing the following criteria:

(1) WHITE OUT: Zero visibility in your area do to falling snow and/or blowing snow.

(2) MAJOR ROAD CLOSURES: The closing of interstates, and main highways, due to extreme snow drifts, white out conditions, major accidents, or sheriffs, etc.

(3) RAIN-SNOW LINES: These are areas within an approaching winter storm that start out as a rain event and then gradually switchover to wet snow. The transition zone is called a rain-snow line.

(4) THUNDERSNOW: Occasionally very strong winter storm systems will produce some lightning and thunder events. Be sure you are seeing a lightning flash and hearing thunder. (Strong winter storms with heavy wet snows often take down trees then power lines which can also produce a bright flash. Power line flashes are sometimes a white to blue-green color.)

(5) SNOW DEPTHS: The NWS takes snow fall measurements every 6 hours (6 a.m., 12 noon 6 p.m., 12 midnight). Spotters are encouraged to do likewise from their locations and if possible at the same time periods plus or minus one hour. Two measurements would be helpful: new snowfall for the 6 hour period, and total snow cover (e.g. "4 inches new snow between 6 p.m. and midnight, total of 9 inches on the ground."). Evening and night time reports are especially important since many official agency reports are discontinued at the close of the work day.

Unless a major life-threatening winter storm develops it is highly unlikely that the Sullivan NWS will request winter activation of the Coordination frequencies (7.15 and 5.13) and/or the local SC net repeaters, so criteria meeting events will need to be forwarded via the packet system, E-mail, passed to a local repeaters' Skywarn NCS, or phoned to the NWS via their unlisted/unpublished 800 number (which is scheduled to be changed in the future). Contact WD9HAS for phone number information.

SPRING TRAINING

The 1999 Sullivan Committee Spring Training schedule is as follows:

January 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Open House tour of the Sullivan NWS. All hams are invited -- and especially those who live within 10-15 miles of the NWS office. Check out the Sullivan Ham Shack, sign up to become a Sullivan Operator during severe weather. Tour the NWS office, check the Doppler radar, satellite imagery, the packet station, the Weather Radio

studio, and more.

The training schedule includes two sessions for Operator training:

Session One:

February 20: Operator Training, Part 1
February 27: Operator Training, Part 2

Session Two:

March 6: Operator Training, Part 1
March 13: Operator Training, Part 2

The Committee wants to have a complete roster of trained and available operators posted by March 15, 1999. This roster list will be posted for all operators including NWS meteorologists who would like to know who will be working the Sullivan Ham shack on a given day or time.

In a related matter and because of concern for safety and security, the Committee will be issuing Identification Badges to all Sullivan operators. These ID badges with picture will be valid for one full year.

Finally, and the details are not yet completely available, there will be a optional basic radar principles and imagery training program. Internet access is also possible.

REPORTING PROCEDURES AND REPORTING CRITERIA

The Reporting Procedures ("Call Sign + Weather Event") have proven to be very effective in passing severe weather reports in a time sensitive and accurate manner. All present Committee members agreed that this process works well and will be a high priority enforcement item on ALL nets during the upcoming weather season.

The Reporting Criteria (weather events) will also stay the same. Rusty indicates the

current selection is meeting the requirements of the Sullivan Meteorologists. Additionally, according to Rusty, in a typical severe weather episode, 40-60% of all severe weather reports received by the NWS come from hams. In some severe weather episodes, 80-90% of the reports were from hams!

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Sometime between January and March 1999 a Special Event station will be set up at the Sullivan NWS office. The Committee will provide advance notice to all regarding exact date, time, and frequency. Everyone is requested to check-in!

In return for all stations that check-in, the Sullivan NWS staff will issue a 8.5"x 11" multicolor, watermarked QSL certificate suitable for framing. Your name, callsign and other information will be personalized by the NWS staff. Its their small way of showing their deep gratitude for the non-stop assistance supplied by the south-central and southeast ham community.

Sullivan Committee and Sullivan Weather Amateur Radio Club officers present:

Rusty/WCM NWS/Sullivan
Tom/N9SZF MARA/7.15 Coordination
Freq and South-Central Skywarn
Skip/WD9HAS MRC/6.91 and
Milwaukee Area Skywarn Assoc.
Gregg/K9ZZZ, MAARS/5.13 Coordination
Freq.
Tom/KA9EWJ, SEWFARS/6.82 Delafield
Freq.

All Sullivan Committee notes are posted on the Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association page: www.execpc.com/~svoros

(C) 1998 Sullivan Committee

Wisconsin's next statehouse session

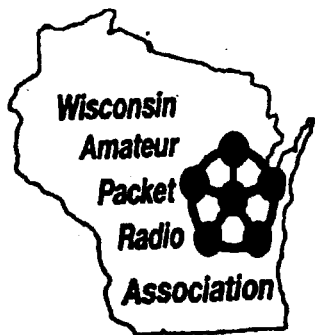
The first session of the 1999-2000 Wisconsin Legislature should begin in January.

As many readers may remember, there were two bills introduced late last session which could have adversely impacted on mobile Amateur Radio operation (as well as CB, taxis, garbage trucks, ALL mobile services). Both bills were inspired by the ever-increasing use of cellular telephones by people as they are driving and the supposed distraction that such use causes. The working theory is that such cell use causes traffic crashes. Both bills (AB 680 and AB 754) died April 2, 1998, when all bills which had not seen action were killed.

Bills like these are certain to be introduced in the new session. At least one bill to be introduced may not even make mention of communications, but instead create a felony class of inattentive driving, with definitions of misdemeanor and felony inattentive driving.

BSSS will be working with Rep. Joan Wade-Spillner and Sen. Robert Welch to keep BSSS readers up to date on these bills as they are introduced, what their bill numbers are, and what actions are taken or not taken. If you hear about any such bill(s), please email BSSS at smokesigs@baraboo.com and I will check the status of the bill(s) and email you a reply, usually within a day. Please don't send anything to your representative or senator until the information is verified for accuracy (or existence). We will also publish the email addresses of all representatives and senators in either February or March.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, Editor



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor - 453 Cottage Grove Ave. - Green Bay, WI 54304 - e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - January, 1999

Happy New Year! Best wishes from all of us at WAPR for a safe, happy, prosperous, and fun New Year! I would like to thank, on behalf of WAPR, all of the node and BBS operators for their efforts at maintaining and expanding the WAPR packet radio network. Additionally, I would like to thank all of our site owners and supporters for their efforts over the course of the past year. There are too many folks to mention, but I do want to let everyone know that your support of packet radio is not only important, but appreciated. Now on to the news.

We finally have experienced our first blast of long-awaited winter weather, after an extremely long mild spell. This lengthy fall has allowed us to finish some things up that would have normally waited until spring. It was particularly welcome in Wittenburg and the surrounding area.

You see, folks in Wittenburg have been in packet "limbo" for quite some time now, being isolated for nearly two-years. This was due to the repeated failure of the Black Creek node. Before the failure, the Black Creek node was used to complete the circuit to Appleton and the rest of Northeastern Wisconsin. Unfortunately, the Black Creek Node appeared to have some kind of curse attached to it; Al, KB9BYQ has replaced the radio twice and has spent a lot of time trying to diagnose the problem of repeated radio flambeau. He is a little skittish on the potential sacrifice of another radio, and has been holding off on replacing it until they can be sure things will be right.

Of course, a side effect of this has been the near total isolation of the Wittenburg Node and LAN. Last month the beam for the Wittenburg backbone node was reoriented toward Rudolph. So far, so good are the reports I am getting. Wittenburg now enjoys a good, solid link with Rudolph and the folks using that LAN are now "back in the loop".

The North-Central part of the state is now enjoying the new Timm's Hill nodestack. The LAN is on 145.570 MHz, and it also has a UHF backbone node. Right now it can get to Rudolph when "the band is up", but it is not a consistent, full-time linkage. What is needed is an intermediate node site to complete the path between the two locations.

If you live between Timm's Hill and Rudolph, or know of a good node site between the two locations, perhaps you can help. If you have an interest in this (or perhaps even would like to see a packet LAN in the area), now is your chance to help make this happen. If you would like to host a node, or know of a place to put one, contact Joel Papke, N9BQM in one of the following ways:

BBS:
N9BQM@N9BQM.EN44WK.WI.USA.NOAM
E-Mail: jpapke@badger.tds.net
"Snail Mail": 7968 Ubinger, Pittsville, Wi. 54466-9214

Your help will surely be appreciated.

Our long-suffering neighbors to the North are now back on the air. I have been in contact with Leroy, N8WQG in Crystal Falls, Michigan, and he gives me the good news that the Iron Mountain node stack is back on the air. The folks up in the U.P. had lost their site near Norway, Michigan and were off the air for quite some time. Next came radio troubles. Well, it appears that progress has been made in this area, because once again we are seeing the Iron Mountain nodes on our heard lists. In addition, the node in Marquette is also operational, MIMQT:K8LOD-5. The backbone links are still at 1200 bps, but plans are to eventually convert these to 9600 bps.

Leroy also tells me that they are working to put the node for Iron River at Brule back on the air. This stack, in addition to providing a LAN for the folks in the Iron River and Northern Wisconsin areas, provides a backbone link between Iron Mountain and Watersmeet (and eventually to Houghton). They have gotten a new radio and are awaiting the opportunity to install an open-squelch DCD board in the TNC. It is quite a trek for Leroy to make up to the top of the mountain, and the visit has to be coordinated with the ski hill operators. Once in place, the West-Central part of the U.P. and the Northern extremes of Wisconsin will also be back in business. So it looks like the folks associated with the Upper Peninsula Packet Association have been busy, and will be busy for a while yet. Now is your chance to renew your friendships with the people in the U.P. In addition to Leroy, I have gotten notes from Pat, KC8EMF. They are enjoying the new connectivity and look forward to mail and chats with their neighbors to the south.

One more note on the U.P. - the BBS in Iron Mountain is not up yet. Mike, KC8VC is looking to get it back up and

running, but needs someone to look after the BBS while he is out of town. As soon as he can, he will have the BBS back up and he will receive a mail forward feed from Green Bay. But for now, hold off on any packet mail you might want to address to the U.P. If you are anxious to send mail off in that direction, fear not. A lot of the people in the southern part of the U.P. use the Green Bay BBS (KB9ALN.#GRB.WI.USA.NOAM) while the Iron Mountain BBS is off the air. If there is someone you are looking for in the U.P., drop me a note and I will see if they are registered on our BBS. I'll also try to locate them if they aren't.

Here in Green Bay we are looking forward to experimentation with 19.2 Kbps on our UHF LAN. Currently this LAN operates at 9600 bps. We are looking at this as an opportunity to add to our body of knowledge in hopes of doubling our backbone speed. As the experimentation progresses, I will keep you informed as to what we are doing, and will publish the collected results in an article here.

I am also looking forward to other experimentation this winter with different packet radio networking protocols. This is an exciting adventure for me into the computer communications realm and hope to get enough time for meaningful experimentation. I do have a lot of "irons in the fire" at this point (Who doesn't?) and it may take a while, but hope to have some results and interesting information ready to publish next summer.

That is all of the network news for this month. I do also have one other bit of news. I have a new E-Mail address. You can send your internet mail to me at kb9aln@juno.com. I will still get mail at the old internet address, but prefer to use this one.

If you have packet news to share with the rest of the state, by all means, mail it off to me. I'm always looking for news concerning packet radio, and will be happy to publish it here. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

Plain Talk About Packet Radio by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

All packet enthusiasts know what packet radio is about and also know how it works in a basic sense. We know why it is called "Packet" and have a pretty good idea of what the current technology is capable of. But how do we explain this to others in a clear, direct fashion? This may not seem to be anything important at first glance, but it becomes a necessity if you have ever tried to explain packet to an emergency manager. It is also important for the general public to know about packet so that they may know what we are up to and how it can support emergency operations in their local government. This article explains how to define and explain packet radio to those who have no idea of what it is all about.

We'll use the "Q&A" format, with questions you are likely to hear and answers that are easy for the non-ham to understand. You'll find it helpful for the non-hams to understand packet when you are looking to equip an EOC, obtain a tower site, or to explain why you have that big tower in your back yard. Not to mention that some folks may be curious, and these answers may stimulate interest in this part of the hobby. More interest means a probability of more hams and more packet operators, definitely a good thing.

The best analogy we can use is a telephone connection to the Internet. While most people are familiar with telephone internet service, some may not be and you may wind up being very general in your explanations. That is why the answers are so general.

A bit of advice here is in order, though. When explaining various facets of packet radio, avoid using ham radio jargon, acronyms and lengthy technical dissertations. For example, don't use the term "TNC" - it has little understanding by the general public. Therefore, it is only one more thing for your "student" to try and wade through and remember. We are not looking for precision technical thought, just an explanation in general terms. Sometimes we won't be technically precise in our explanations simply because we don't want to overwhelm our audience. This is fine. Many times, this audience will never need to know all of the technical complexity, and are only confused by it. This being said, let's begin.

Q: What is "Packet Radio"?

A: Packet radio is a way to exchange information between computers using radio. Home Internet service requires some kind of phone modem. In our case, we use Amateur Radio equipment to make this connection rather than a telephone modem. We use an interface box (similar to an external phone modem) that connects our radios to our

computers. It is not helpful to mention the TNC or any related terminology, as was said before.

Q: Why is it called "Packet"?

A: Because the information flowing between two computers is arranged in short bursts of computer data. Kind of like handing someone a paper packet with a note in it.

Q: Why is it important?

A: Packet Radio can be used to pass emergency messages when other methods fail. For example, the Red Cross and Emergency Government managers use E-Mail extensively to communicate with state and federal agencies during a disaster. Packet Radio is computer-to-computer, so it can fill the void left when they cannot access Internet E-Mail.

Q: Why go through all this trouble when you can use the Internet?

A: Because the internet operates with wires - phone lines - to start with. Wiring of all kinds - whether it be electrical, telephone, or whatever - are subject to failure. Packet radio works without wires, so it can fill the void left when disaster affects phone wires. In addition, telephone use increases significantly during a disaster (especially cell-phone use) and this is one way to avoid "disaster congestion" of the telephone lines that are normally used to gain access to the internet.

Q: What happens when the power goes out?

A: Most Emergency operators have some kind of ability to operate their computers and radios from emergency power. In addition, most other radio stations in the radio network have the capability to operate from battery power or a generator.

Q: What do you mean by "Network"?

A: These are a collection of radio stations and specialized computers that relay, or repeat the information packets to other stations so they can reach their destination. Consider that the State of Wisconsin is a big geographical area. One radio station cannot make it from Milwaukee to Madison, where the state government maintains its Emergency Operating Center. Other radio stations act to relay information between two computers, so that the limited range of the radio does not hinder our ability to communicate.

Q: Why the big tower and antennas?

A: Because we want to use as few of these relay stations as possible. Antennas need to be placed high to overcome the curvature of the earth and physical obstructions.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: That depends on how much capability you want to have. You can throw a station together for as little as \$50, if you are willing to use older equipment. Advanced capability can be had for less than \$500, more for the computer.

Q: What is a node?

A: A node is a repeater, or a relay station for packet radio systems. It is used to overcome physical obstructions in the radio path, or to allow a small, low-powered packet radio station to communicate over greater distance.

Q: Do you use the internet with this?

A: We can. And some interconnection with the Internet is desirable for compatibility with disaster relief agencies. This relies on a "gateway" station.

Q: What is a gateway?

A: A gateway is a special packet station that can talk to us and talk to the internet as well. We do not use the same method of computer communication as the internet, so we need to be able to connect our network of computers to the internet. A gateway does this for us.

Q: Why do you do all of this?

A: Because we are nuts! Seriously, this is something that interests us and has the ability to provide a great public service in times of disaster. That is part of Amateur Radio's mission, and this is one more way to help us fulfill our mission.

And that is all we have time and space for this month. If you have specific packet questions that you have trouble answering simply, don't hesitate to get a hold of me and ask. Generally, I will be able to provide an answer.

73 from Andy.

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, NOKAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

ROCKFORD/LOVES PARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (WSYI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Contact: Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail WB9QYV@aol.com

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108

Test Site: St. Paul Technical College

235 Marshall Ave.

St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Craig Johnson, AA0ZZ (612) 483-3143

Test Site: Blaine City Hall

9150 Central Ave NE

Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management

(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))

Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756

Test Site: Fire Station No. 1

94th St. & Nicollet Avenue S.

Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, AI0D (612) 432-0438

Test Site: Hayes Community Center

14601 Hayes Road

Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

WSYI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553

Test Site: Eden Prairie Library

79 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, K0BTE (612) 459-8678

Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station

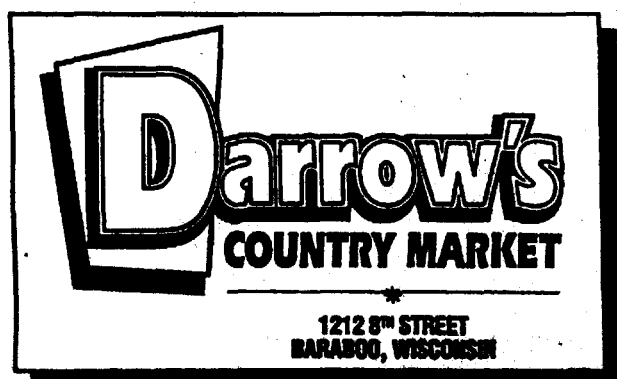
8641 80th ST., S

Cottage Grove, MN

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club



WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)



Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959

The December 1, 1998 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by club vice president Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ.

Minutes of the the Novemeber 3rd meeting were accepted. There was no treasurer's report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DUES ARE DUE!
(\$18.00)

OLD BUSINESS: The sale of the club generator is still pending.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday January 5, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. room 14, Baraboo Civic Center.

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ
Club Secretary

The following members were present:

Joseph Rowland	N9PRF	Portage
George Gabay	N9QQR	New Lisbon
Art Kleefisch	K9WSS	Baraboo
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo

The Meeting dates for the first half of 1999 are:

January 5, 1999
February 2, 1999
March 2, 1999
April 6, 1999
May 4, 1999
June 1, 1999

Meeting s are held at:

The Baraboo Civic Center,
124 2nd Street
Baraboo, WI
at 7:30 PM in room 14

AMATEUR AUCTION!

February 23, 1999 • 7 P.M.

American Legion Post 53
634 Water Street
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Call-in frequency: 146.01/61 MHz

DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.

ADMISSION: \$3.00, OR PAID 1999 RCRA SUPPORT

Sell Your Gear • Mark all Items!
Club Retains 10% of all sales

COFFEE AND SNACKS

Not responsible for any loss!

COL. BRUCE WALTHER, W9QAH, AUCTIONEER

Proceeds to the Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

For more information, contact Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Avenue, Knapp, WI 54749
(715) 665-2374

Buy It • Sell It • Trade It • Fix It

SWAPFESTS



**27th ANNUAL MIDWINTER
SWAPFEST**
WAUKESHA EXPOSITION
CENTER
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN
**SATURDAY
JANUARY 9, 1999**

Both sponsored by:
THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.
P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!
MADISON SWAPFEST
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 1999
Middleton Conference Center
(Same place as 1998 with new name)
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
Just west of intersection of Beltline and Greenway Blvd.
Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SWAPFEST 99
July 10, 1999
(Held every July)
American Legion Park
Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235 Extension: Ask for Verne
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

SEWFARS SWAPFEST
Sunday, March 7, 1999
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Setup starts at 6:00 AM
Waukesha County Expo Center • Waukesha WI
Admission: \$4.00 advance - \$5.00 at door
Reserved tables per 4 ft: \$5.00 - \$7.00 at door
Electrical outlet: \$5.00 • Amateur license exams
Reservation deadline: February 15, 1999 - Order early!
Send with SASE, checks payable to SEWFARS, Inc. Mail to
P.O. Box 102, Delafield WI 53018
More info: (414) 835-7035

Lakeshore Hamfest
and Computer Swapfest
Manitowoc County Expo
Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R
Saturday, May 8, 1999
For more information, call:
Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096
Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097
ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS
HAMFEST 1999
YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!
Sunday, March 21
Jefferson County Fairgrounds
tricountyarc@globaldialog.com
TCARC • 711 East Street 920-563-6502
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings

The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs presents the
22nd annual Swapfest and Auction
SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999
University Center
BIGGER AND BETTER!
Indoors • Indoor dealers unload at table • Saturday setup and security
FCC exams at 9 AM • Food all day long
BIG AUCTION STARTS AT NOON, COL. BRUCE WALTHER, W9QAH, AUCTIONEER
Information: Write or email Mary Eiden, KG9OK, CWRA Secretary, 2229 Dixon
Street, Stevens Point WI 54481.
E-mail: maeiden@2a.net

Eau Amateur Radio Club
HAMFEST
Saturday, July 10, 1999
For Information Contact:
ECARC
P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
<http://www.ecarc.org>

RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW
Sunday, July 25, 1999
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
SOUTH HILLS COUNTRY CLUB I-94
East Frontage Road Between Highway 20 and Highway K
OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SALES
Free Tailgating • Air Conditioned • Commercial Dealers • Forums
Tables: \$8.00 • Advance Tickets SASE and \$4.00
Send to RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53401
Email: w9udu@wi.net Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC
Web page: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>

Ozaukee Radio Club
**21ST ANNUAL RADIO AND
COMPUTER SWAPFEST**
Saturday, May 1, 1999
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
1702 Holly Lane, Grafton, WI 53024

Circus City Swapfest
Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club
Saturday August 14, 1999 • 7 a.m. - noon
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI
Vendors • Concessions
Camping • Free Parking
Tail Gate Area
\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5
Steve Schulze, N9UDO (608) 356-2313/356-4777 <http://www.thelorax.com/~sschulze/hamfest.htm>
Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.
AUCTION
February 23, 1999 • 7:00 p.m.
• American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI
CONTACT: Steve Hart, KA9OMC 715-665-2374
E616 810th Ave. Knapp, WI 54749

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

**AMATEUR
ELECTRONIC
SUPPLY**
5710 W. Good Hope Road
Milwaukee, WI 53223
Toll Free 1-800-558-0411
414-358-0333

**The World's largest Ham Dealer
is located in Wisconsin
and throughout the world at
www.aesham.com**

- Complete Inventories
- Quality Used Gear
- Top Trades
- Service Department
- Competitive Pricing
- Same Day Shipping

**Browse our inventory
without leaving your chair**

**Download the Newest AES Catalog
Place an Order on-line at our
SECURE SITE**

**Radio
Recyclers**
USED HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT
Neil Lawton WK9Q
www.execpc.com/~radiorec radiorec@execpc.com
414-760-3000
Radio Estate Liquidators
over 40,000 tubes and other antique radio parts
5702 W. Good Hope Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53223
(Located next door to AES)
Buy • Sell

Craig Henderson Phone (419) 352-4465
N8DJB Hours: 10 - 5

Rotor Doctor
Rotor Parts and Repair

7368 S.R. 105 Pemberville, OH 43450

(715) 644-2112 FAX: (715) 644-2621
RICH'S GENERAL STORE AND SURPLUS
Route 2 • Stanley WI 54768
"YOUR DISCOUNT HAM SOURCE"
Alinco mobile HF, VHF/UHF, and HTs
Ask if any Alinco factory closeouts are currently available!
AMATEUR RADIO BOOKS, CASSETTES, AND VIDEO TAPES • GARMIN GPS
Jo, N9MEI (800) 646-RICH Rich, N9MEH

BATTERIES
BATTERIES FOR ALL YOUR POWER REQUIREMENTS

NICKEL CADMIUM
SEALED LEAD ACID
GEL CELLS
ALKALINE
LITHIUM

E. H. YOST & COMPANY
2211-D PARVIEW RD.
MIDDLETON, WI 53562
TELEPHONE (608) 831-3443
FAX (608) 831-1082
ehyost@mrnicd-ehyostco.com

ARRL
Publications **HOTLINE**
Call toll free! 888-277-5289
e-mail: pubsales@arrl.org
Check us out on the Web:
<http://www.arrl.org/>
• Complete Publications Catalog
• Membership application and services

VCR SERVICE
North Freedom Electronics
Same day service by appointment
VCR Cleaning: \$19.95
Computers • Musical Instruments
Stereos • Auto Sound • CDs • CBs
Sorry, no TVs or stacked stereo systems
HOURS MAY VARY - CALL AHEAD
John Schmelzer (608) 533-4366
201 E. Walnut, Box 18 North Freedom WI 53951

TOWER ELECTRONICS
THE HAMS DIME STORE & WHOLESALE TO THE WORLD

ORDERS 1-800-662-3422
TECH INFO 920-435-3359
FAX LINE 920-435-2980

SCOTT KB9AMM & JILL KB9PZF E-MAIL KB9AMM@JUNO.COM
P.O. BOX 12631 GREEN BAY, WI 54307-2631
PRODUCTS FOR HAMS FROM HAMS SINCE 1978